

Court reverses Poindexter conviction

WASHINGTON (AP) — A federal appeals court Friday reversed former National Security Adviser John Poindexter's felony convictions in the Iran-Contra scandal. Mr. Poindexter, who had the high White House job in the Reagan administration, was convicted in April 1990 of conspiracy, obstruction of Congress and making false statements. He was sentenced to 10 years in prison. Mr. Poindexter appealed his conviction on grounds that the trial was tainted by testimony he gave to Congress under a grant of immunity. "Because the (independent counsel) failed to show that Poindexter's immunity testimony was not used against him at trial, we reverse the convictions on all counts," the U.S. court of appeals for the District of Columbia circuit said in a 2-1 opinion. The court said it would remand the case back for hearings on whether Mr. Poindexter's five felony convictions could be reinstated, as was the case with his one-time aide, Oliver North. Former U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Elliott Abrams was sentenced to two years' probation and 100 hours of community service for withholding information from Congress on the Iran-contra plan.

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AMMAN SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 1991, JUMADH AL OULA 10, 1412

Price: Jordan 100 fils; Saudi Arabia 1.50 riyals; UAE 1.50 dirhams

Princess Alla delivers boy

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Alla bint Al Hussein and her husband Muhammad Farid Al Hashi had a baby boy Friday, the Royal Court announced. The announcement added to the newborn was named Hamed by His Majesty King Hussein.

Turkish soldiers, rebel Kurds killed in clash

ANARA (R) — Five Turkish soldiers and two separatist rebels were killed Thursday in a clash in southeast Turkey, the official Anatolian news agency said. It said the gunbattle between the troops and guerrillas of the Kurdistan Workers Party (PKK) occurred in Belenoluk village in Siirt province after a rebel on a military post. A soldier was wounded in Midyat town of Diyarbakir province when the rebels fired rockets at military buildings, city sources said.

Killed in Taiwan's jet train accident

TAIPEI (AP) — Two trains collided near a railway tunnel Friday, killing 29 passengers in the worst train accident in the history of Taiwan, officials said. Railway officials said 102 other passengers, including seven Japanese, hospitalized for bone fractures and bruises but did not report their conditions. Railway workers in Miaoli, 150 kilometres from Taipei, said most of the injured were found in six badly damaged cars. Rescuers, using chainsaws and electric saws to cut through the wreckage, worked into the night to remove the cars and some of the injured.

Thousands march in Madrid to demand autonomy for Basques

MADRID (R) — Thousands of Basques from Spain's North African enclaves of Ceuta and Melilla marched in Madrid on Friday to press demands for autonomous rule. A 7,000-strong march, led by mayors of the two cities, marched from Madrid's city palace to the public administration ministry to present demands. Ceuta and Melilla are two racially mixed enclaves on the Moroccan coast, each with 60,000 inhabitants. They have been ruled by Spain since the second half of the 16th century but Morocco has a long-standing claim to the territories and are regarded by Madrid as of the southern region of Spain and have no self-governing powers of their own.

Abu Jaber to visit Moscow

SCOW (R) — The Emir of Kuwait, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, is expected in Moscow Friday for talks with Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev and leaders. TASS news agency reported Friday. TASS said the Emir would also meet Russian President Boris Yeltsin during his visit.

Ghan rebels continue talks

SCOW (AP) — Afghan Mujahideen leaders said in an interview published Friday that Moscow was directly responsible for the "catastrophe" in Afghanistan. The Mujahideen delegation called on the Kremlin to end support for the Kabul government. Burhanuddin Rabbani, the leader of the Mujahideen delegation, said talks on ending the Soviet war, said the Mujahideen had produced any concrete results. But the Afghanistans' decision had delayed its scheduled return two days in a row. "The results of our talks with Moscow should be announced," Mr. Rabbani said. He told his leaders that the Soviet Union is responsible for the catastrophe in Afghanistan, the military newspaper Mayya Zvezda quoted him as saying. "In our opinion, you can't be up for your mistakes if you're supporting Kabul."

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر بالانجليزية عن المؤسسة الصحفية الاردنية، الراي.

Israel wants to try Ashrawi for alleged contacts with PLO

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli police recommended that the government prosecute Hanan Ashrawi, a top adviser to Palestinian peace negotiators, for allegedly meeting with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) officials, Israeli reports said Friday.

If charges are filed, it could be a serious blow to the delicate U.S.-sponsored Middle East peace process.

Dr. Ashrawi, 45, is one of the best-known Palestinian leaders. She has met frequently with U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and gained international prominence while serving as a spokeswoman for the Palestinian delegation to the peace talks in Madrid.

News of the recommendation came as Palestinians in the occupied lands raised balloons and held marches to celebrate "Independence Day," marking the 1988 proclamation of an independent state.

Israel's Itim news agency said the recommendation to prosecute

Dr. Ashrawi was signed by Sando Mazur, head of the criminal investigations unit.

However, Mr. Mazur also wrote that the government should weigh if "prosecuting Hanan Ashrawi, under the current circumstances, is of public interest," it said.

The government is entitled to close the case, initiated long before the Madrid talks, for lack of public interest.

Dr. Ashrawi called the recommendation an attempt to intimidate her.

"I think this is petty and vindictive," she said. "It is trying to intimidate and silence the Palestinians."

A public prosecutor will decide whether to bring charges, a decision which could take weeks, a justice ministry spokeswoman said.

The police recommendation came on the day Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir left for the United States to patch up relations with Washington, strained over the peace process.

Israeli political sources said they doubted the authorities would risk antagonising the U.S., which has held up vital loan guarantees to prod Israel to the peace table, by trying a senior Palestinian figure at this point.

Palestinians and Israelis are scheduled to hold direct talks shortly, the second stage of the peace drive. The venue and date for the meeting are still undecided.

Dr. Ashrawi said Palestinian leaders had asked Washington and Moscow, co-sponsors of the Madrid conference, to prevent Israel from intimidating them.

Faisal Al Hussein, overall head of the Palestinian team in Madrid, would not face the same charges for lack of evidence, a police spokeswoman said.

Israeli law bans contacts with the PLO, which the Jewish state regards as a "terrorist" group.

Dr. Ashrawi, an English literature professor, said she felt persecuted by the Israeli authorities for

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Shamir ready for Israel pullout under limited 'autonomy' deal

TEL AVIV (AP) — Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, in an interview published Friday, for the first time spelled out his ideas on Palestinian self-rule and suggested he was ready to pull the army out of most of the occupied territories under an autonomy deal.

"There is a lot of room for creative thinking in these negotiations," Mr. Shamir told the independent Haaretz daily.

But Mr. Shamir also reiterated that he would not surrender any territory, allow the formation of a Palestinian state or consider halting the construction of Jewish settlements in the occupied territories.

"There is no room for territorial concessions," Mr. Shamir said. "If we give it up, where will we be? The whole world wants territory from us... we are a tiny country that is difficult to find on a map."

Mr. Shamir suggested that Israel needed the space to

accommodate the mass immigration from the Soviet Union. "In a country that is absorbing immigration, to form two states means to condemn both populations to eternal conflict," he said.

In the past, Mr. Shamir used to argue that Israel has a right to keep the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip as an indivisible part of the "Biblical land of Israel." The emphasis on Israel's perceived need for space is new.

Asked how he envisioned Palestinian autonomy, Mr. Shamir said he was willing to offer real self-rule in the areas of culture, education, the judicial system, trade and the economy, Haaretz said.

He suggested indirectly that the army would withdraw from Palestinian-ruled areas. Asked how he would respond if a state was declared in the autonomous areas, he said: "We will bring the army back because this would be a violation of the agreement."

He also said the 112,000 Jewish

settlers, who live among the Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, would remain under Israeli rule. "They will be a part of Israel," he said.

The Palestinians have accepted to discuss an autonomy deal with Israel in bilateral, U.S.-sponsored negotiations, but insist it must be an interim agreement leading to a Palestinian state.

Mr. Shamir said Housing Minister Ariel Sharon, who launched a massive settlement drive in the occupied territories last year, acted with his blessing. "It is the government's policy to develop the country... and Sharon is not acting against my wishes," Mr. Shamir said U.S. and Arab demands that Israel freeze settlement construction would only be considered when the final status of the occupied territories is to be determined, Haaretz said.

Concerning an agreement with Syria, Mr. Shamir said he would

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Palestinians celebrate Independence Day; Israeli troops kill one

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — Palestinians raised balloons and held marches in the occupied territories Friday to celebrate "Independence Day." In occupied Jerusalem, police shot and killed a Palestinian trying to scribble nationalist slogans near the home of Israeli Housing Minister Ariel Sharon.

In Nabulus, the occupied West Bank's largest city, some 300 marchers chanted "We salute the Palestinian state." "On the third anniversary of the independence declaration, we are hopeful that a Palestinian state will be established," one marcher said through a loudspeaker.

Troops fired tear-gas to disperse the crowd, Arab reports said. In Gaza City, balloons fluttered from rooftops, and cars and electricity poles were decked with flowers. Motorists honked their horns in joy. In the town of Rafah, activists fired shots in the air in celebration.

One wall slogan in Gaza City read: "The Madrid conference is our means for establishing an independent state."

Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza Strip have celebrated Independence Day since Nov. 15, 1988, when the Palestine National Council (PNC) declared the formation of an independent Palestinian state.

This year marked the first time that the Israeli army has not

imposed widespread curfews on the anniversary of the independence declaration. Army officials said Friday restrictions were only imposed on the Fawwar refugee camp in the West Bank.

In Arab East Jerusalem, merchants closed their shops in protest over Friday's shooting death.

The incident started at about 4:30 a.m. (0230 GMT) Friday when members of the paramilitary border police patrolled the narrow alleys of the walled Old City.

In a street near Mr. Sharon's house, the patrol spotted a group of masked Palestinians and ordered them to halt, said a police spokeswoman.

"Apparently there was a chase," she said. "One was arrested and one was wounded by gun shot and later died."

Police identified the victim as Moussa Razi Abu Iyad, 20. Palestinian reporters gave his name Moussa Ghazi Abu Eid, 21.

The death brought to 871 the number of Palestinians killed by Israeli soldiers and civilians during the four-year uprising against Israeli occupation, according to an AP count.

In the West Bank town of Jenin, a Palestinian woman was fatally shot in the head when she tried to stop 10 masked men from kidnapping her brother, Arab reports said.

The woman was identified as Lutfiya Assad Sholli, 35.

Jordan underlines refugee problem, UNRWA services

NEW YORK (Petra) — Jordan's permanent representative at the United Nations, Abdullah Salah, said Friday that Jordan gives special attention to the problem of Palestinian refugees since the Kingdom is an essential part of the Palestinian problem, which is the essence of the Arab-Israeli conflict, in addition to the fact that it is hosting the largest number of Palestinian refugees and that close relations bind the people of Jordan and Palestine.

In an address to the Political Committee of the United Nations Refugees and Works Agency (UNRWA), Mr. Salah said that through the committee the world is acquainted with the difficult living conditions of the Palestinian refugees for more than four decades.

He affirmed that the international community represented in the United Nations shoulders "a moral responsibility towards the problem which required the continuation of the financial and moral support extended to the refugees by UNRWA as a temporary procedure and should at the same time continue working on solving the problem."

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NAVAL ADVANCE: His Majesty King Hussein Thursday visits a new patrol boat acquired by Amman Coast Guard which was launched on the occasion of His Majesty's birthday. To the King's left is Armed Forces Chief of Staff Field Marshal Fathi Abu Taleh (See story on page 3)

Jordan, Syria pursuing closer coordination in peace process

By Ghadeer Taber
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Jordan and Syria are headed towards increased cooperation and coordination ahead of bilateral Arab-Israeli talks scheduled to resume later this month, Jordanian officials said Friday.

Tourism and Antiquities Minister Abdul Karim Kabariti, who is currently visiting Damascus, said he delivered a message from Prime Minister Taher Masri to his Syrian counterpart, Mahmoud Al Zoubi, during a meeting with the premier Thursday. A well-placed official also said Syrian Foreign Minister Farouq Sharaa planned to visit Jordan this week, but that

the date of his visit would be determined as soon as possible.

In a telephone interview with the Jordan Times from Damascus, Mr. Kabariti said Jordan renewed its call on Syria to coordinate with Jordan ahead of the forthcoming bilateral talks so as "to prevent Israel from exploiting weak points in Arab coordination strategy to undermine the peace process."

Foreign Minister Kamel Abu Jaber said earlier Friday that there were plans for a meeting between the joint Jordanian-Palestinian delegation and the Syrian negotiating team before the start of the bilateral talks. Dr. Abu Jaber did not specify a date or venue for the meeting but said

the Palestinian team was expected in Amman Sunday to prepare for the next phase of the negotiations.

The three sides are expected to try to find a common position as to when they would enter multilateral talks with Israel on such issues as water rights and disarmament.

The call for closer coordination between the three parties came after the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) announced last week that it was resuming full ties with Damascus after a break of several years.

Farouq Kaddoumi, head of the political department of the PLO,

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Israel is defying co-sponsors of peace talks — Abu Jaber

By Mariana M. Shalhin
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Foreign Minister Kamel Abu Jaber Friday blasted a remark by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir in which he rejected giving up occupied Arab territories, by saying the Israeli leader should be called to answer for his statement by the negotiations' two co-sponsors.

Jordan is operating in the Middle East peace negotiations on the principle of land for peace, as embodied in U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338 and international legitimacy, Dr. Abu Jaber reaffirmed.

Dr. Abu Jaber reiterated Jordan's basis for participating in the negotiations hours after Mr. Shamir said that Israel would not withdraw from an inch of land before leaving Tel Aviv for Washington this weekend.

"If we are not talking about land and international legitimacy then what are we talking about?" asked Dr. Abu Jaber. Mr. Shamir, Dr. Abu Jaber said, could be making these declarations, which effectively nullify the 'raison d'être' of the negotiations, for his Likud party voters who are "nibbling at his heels."

"Shamir said in his speech in Madrid that the issue was not territory but existence. Well, where are the Palestinians supposed to exist, up in the air?" Dr. Abu Jaber asked.

If Mr. Shamir was serious about his remarks which would indicate that there was no chance of territorial concessions, Dr. Abu Jaber said that Mr. Shamir would have to answer to the negotiations' co-sponsors about his attitude.

As Mr. Shamir got on the plane to Washington, Israeli police recommended Palestinian spokeswoman Hanan Ashrawi be prosecuted for allegedly meeting Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) officials.

If action were to be taken against Dr. Ashrawi, Dr. Abu Jaber said, "it would be tragic." "Any action taken against Dr. Ashrawi is a challenge to the

international community, international legality and freedom of speech and association," Dr. Abu Jaber said.

Hoping that any action taken by Israel would not go beyond harassment because anything beyond that would constitute "a huge step backwards for the peace process," Dr. Abu Jaber said. It "will be further Israeli entrenchment, both ideological and procedural."

The Palestinian delegation and its coordination committee are expected to arrive in Amman Sunday, Dr. Abu Jaber said, to coordinate and prepare for the next phase of the peace negotiations, which are expected to commence in several weeks.

Mr. Shamir is expected to discuss the venue of the second round of the peace negotiations with members of the Bush administration. While most of the Arab delegations to the peace talks have showed a preference for Washington as a venue, the Israelis have said that they prefer Cyprus.

Israelis shell Lebanese villages; 4 children killed

TYRE, Lebanon (Agencies) — Four children were killed Friday as Israeli artillerymen and allied militiamen poured mortar and artillery fire into U.N.-policed villages in South Lebanon, security sources said.

The minors, aged between 10 and 14, were killed in a single round that blasted the main square in the village of Zibkin. A fifth child was wounded and hospitalized, said the sources.

The sources said the artillery shell was fired at 12:20 p.m. (1020 GMT) from somewhere inside Israel's self-styled "security zone" in South Lebanon.

On Thursday, two Lebanese guerrillas were killed in a village inside the "security zone" while preparing a bomb to be used against the Israeli forces or their allies, Israeli news reports said. The shelling of Zibkin capped more than 15 hours of random bombardment of villages policed by Nepalese, Norwegian and Irish battalions of the U.N.

peacekeeping forces in the area. Timur Goksel, spokesman for the U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) said 125 artillery and mortar rounds were fired on these villages between 7 p.m. (1700 GMT) Thursday and 10:30 a.m. (0830 GMT) Friday.

The Israeli military command denied the Zibkin shelling reports, saying "No Israeli army or South Lebanon Army (SLA) force has fired towards the village."

The shelling, the fiercest in recent weeks, followed a bomb blast near an SLA base in Sujud hill on the tip of the "security zone" Thursday night, the sources said. The bomb caused no casualties.

Israeli warplanes and helicopters destroyed two bases of the Hizbollah (Party of God), two strategic bridges and a post of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine (PFLP) north of the zone. Hizbollah has stepped up its

attack against Israeli targets in South Lebanon to sabotage the Arab-Israeli Middle East peace talks.

Police said Friday no one was hurt from the raids that demolished two bridges in Haboush and Kfar Hata, in an apparent bid to disrupt communications between Hizbollah's terrain in the Iqlim Al Tuffah and the neighbouring market town of Nabatiyyeh.

Iqlim Al Tuffah is 16 kilometres southeast of the port city of Sidon. It overlooks the "security zone" in the south.

The jets also targeted Hizbollah bases around the village of Ain Bousor, southeast of Sidon, and the Rashidiyyeh Palestinian refugee camp on the outskirts of the southern port city of Tyre.

A group of about 100 women staged a two-hour sit-in in front of the U.N. offices in Beirut Friday to protesting Israel's repeated attacks.

A statement by the demonstrators called on U.N. Secretary General Javier Perez de Cuellar to pressure Israel into halting its "barbaric attacks on the unarmed population of South Lebanon that is displacing the people."

As the thuds of artillery explosions echoed across the valleys of South Lebanon, 37 youths from the 17 sects that make up Lebanon's four-million population drove into the "security zone" in a "peace trip" to underscore unity of the war-shattered nation.

The youths, waving Lebanese flags and a placard that read: "One country for one people," ran across the 200 metres Zammaraya crossing linking the Bekaa Valley with the eastern sector of the "security zone."

SLA militiamen thoroughly searched the group's bus before allowing it to join the youths who were chanting Lebanon's national anthem and performing the dabkeh folk dance.

Jordanian team to undergo change Venue and time for bilaterals unclear

By Narmeen Murad
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The venue and timing for the continuation of Arab-Israeli bilateral talks remained ambiguous Friday as Jordanian officials cast doubt on the validity of reports saying the talks would be held in Washington on Nov. 22.

"True, there was an understanding that the talks would be held in Washington on Nov. 22," said a senior government source, "but I do not see how the date at least can be kept given that the Arabs and Israelis are not yet agreed on the venue and (in light of U.S. Secretary of State James) Baker's engagement over the past two weeks with trips to Asia."

The source did not say where the understanding came from and how it was reached, saying he still could not rule out that the meetings would take place in Washington on the specified date.

The source explained that the disagreement over the venue centred on Israeli demands for Cyprus as a compromise on its earlier demand that the talks rotate between Israel and the concerned Arab countries.

Jordan and Palestinians have supported the idea of Washington, D.C. as a venue for bilateral talks but "Israel wants the talks to be held in Cyprus in close proximity to the Middle East region," the senior government official said.

Although all indications continued to point to Washington as the venue for the Arab-Israeli talks, the official said that the different delegations were "still jockeying over where to meet."

Commenting on the Nov. 22 date for the bilaterals, another source here said that "it was impossible to complete all preparations by that time," and that the earliest possible date for the opening of bilaterals would be after Thanksgiving day on Nov. 28.

"The earliest date would have to be the first Monday after Thanksgiving," a well-informed Jordanian source said.

The senior government source also revealed Friday that changes were being made on the make-up of the Jordanian delegation in preparation for the bilaterals and the final list will be "announced soon."

He did not reveal the number of delegates to be changed or their names but said that the final list will be announced in the next two days, and that the changes were going to "include some diplomats who will return to their bases."

The Jordanian delegation to Madrid included ambassadors Awarid Khalidi (Paris), Mohammad Udwan (Moscow), Faud Ayyoub (London) and Tala Hassan (Belgium) and the European Community.

Libya denies Lockerbie charge, urges international inquiry

TUNIS (Agencies) — Libya formally denied any involvement in the Lockerbie plane bombing and called on Friday for an international inquiry into the affair.

The Libyan foreign ministry, in a statement carried by the official JANA news agency, said an international arbitration panel or the International Court of Justice should rule on the destruction of Pan Am Flight 103 over Scotland in 1988.

The Libyan statement was issued the day after Britain and the United States said they were bringing criminal charges against two Libyan agents for the bombing of the Pan-Am Jumbo jet which killed 270 people.

Britain demanded that Libya hand over the two men for prosecution. The White House said it was considering a coordinated international response to alleged Libyan involvement and refused to rule out military retaliation.

The Tripoli statement said: "The people's Foreign Liaison and International Cooperation Bureau (foreign ministry) categorically denies any Libyan involvement in the mentioned incident or any knowledge by the Libyan authorities of it."

It added: "We call on the United States and Britain to resort to the logic of law, wisdom and reason by referring the issue to neutral international arbitration panels or the International Court of Justice."

The statement said Libya reserved the right to defend itself before "just and neutral judicial authorities, the United Nations and the International Court."

"Libya repeats its condemnation of terrorism in all its forms," it added.

Referring to U.S. hints of military retaliation, the statement denounced the "language of threats" and said negotiation was the best way to settle the issue.

"There has been no contact with Libya's specialised judicial authorities for inquiring about the truth and checking these allegations," it said.

Libya's U.N. mission said in a statement on Thursday the country "unequivocally denies any and all association and knowledge of the tragic Lockerbie incident."

It also said Tripoli promised to cooperate fully with the international community "to seriously examine the root cause of terrorism and put a permanent end to this ugly phenomenon which con-

tinues to threaten the peace and stability of the world."

U.S. officials believe the bombing of Pan Am 103 was a retaliation for a 1986 American air strike which hit Libyan targets in reprisal for alleged Libyan terrorism against Americans in Germany.

The Lockerbie suspects were named in Washington Thursday as Abdel Bassett Ali Al Megrahi, 39, chief of the Libyan intelligence agency's airline security section, and Lamen Khalifa Fhimah, 35, an intelligence agent who worked for Libyan Airlines in Malta.

Britain has demanded that Libya hand over the two accused. Neither Britain nor the United States has an extradition treaty with Libya.

Libya's ambassador to France, Saeed Mujafer, ruled out the surrender of the two agents, who are in Libya. "Nobody surrenders his own nationals and this way surrenders his sovereignty," he told British television.

Two tiny pieces of electronic circuit board, smaller than a human fingernail, found during an inch-by-inch search of a wide area in Scotland are key to criminal charges brought in the bombing of Pan Am flight 103.

One fragment was identified by Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) and Scottish investigators as being part of a circuit board of a radio that contained the bomb. The other piece came from the timing device two Libyan intelligence agents are charged with using to detonate the explosion that killed 270 people on Dec. 21, 1988.

After the Boeing 747 exploded (10,000 metres) above Lockerbie, Scottish police started what acting Attorney General William P. Barr called "the most extensive crime scene investigation ever carried out."

The painstaking search covered 2,200 square kilometres. With debris scattered across the countryside, hundreds of Scottish police, military reservists and civilian volunteers "crawled on their hands and knees through the cold, wet earth and searched lakes and ponds and combed forests for clues," said U.S. attorney Jay B. Stephens.

Nearly three years after the Christmas-season blast, investigators were a circumstantial case against the Libyans.

Indictments announced in Washington and Scotland allege a

bomb plot involving high-level Libyan officials. The charges prompted suggestions that the Bush administration might retaliate against Libya.

"We don't rule out any options," White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater said. "We find it very hard to believe this could have been carried out without the active involvement of higher-ups within the government."

Later, at a state dinner at the White House, Mr. Bush said, "we're doing what we should do, talking to a lot of people... getting the facts."

In London, British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd said the allegations "involve the organs of state" and demanded that Libya produce the two men for trial immediately.

Investigators originally suspected the Syrian-backed Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine — General Command. But physical evidence led them in another direction.

A green piece of circuit board was found in a shirt pocket that had been in the suitcase that contained the bomb, Mr. Barr said. It was part of the bomb's timing device, which was traced to a Swiss company that had sold it to a high-level Libyan intelligence official.

Although Mr. Bush did not elaborate on what steps might be taken, spokesman Fitzwater would not rule out a possible military strike and said Mr. Bush would be talking to world leaders about an international response.

"In the coming days, the president will be consulting closely with (British) Prime Minister (John) Major and other world leaders to fashion together a cooperative international response to this latest terrorist atrocity by (Libyan leader Muammar) Qadhafi's government," Mr. Fitzwater said.

State Department deputy spokesman Richard Boucher said the United States held the Libyan government responsible for what he called the murder of 270 people.

"This was a Libyan government operation from start to finish," he said.

"The bombing of Pan Am 103 was not a rogue operation. An operation of this magnitude, involving people so close to the Libyan leadership, could only have been undertaken with the approval of senior Libyan officials," Mr. Boucher said.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Turkish prisoners stage hunger strike

ANKARA (R) — More than 200 Turkish political prisoners are on hunger strike to protest against torture and jail conditions, a human rights official said Friday. "Our lawyers have ascertained that prisoners transferred to Eskişehir prison have been beaten," Mr. Akın Birdal, secretary general of Turkey's Human Rights Association told Reuters. Mr. Birdal said 205 political prisoners, who have joined the fast since early November, had been moved to the maximum security prison in western Turkey from various jails two weeks ago. A relative of one of the prisoners said most of the 205 were involved with the separatist Kurdish Workers Party (PKK) and Turkey's Dev-Sol (Revolutionary left) urban guerrilla group. "Our relatives were tortured and isolated from life in one-man-cells," said Beza Yuca who is supporting her fasting prisoner husband by joining the strike in Ankara. She said the hunger strikers were determined to keep the fast until their demands were accepted. The inmates refuse to remain in single cells and say they want to be returned to their previous prisons and an end to mistreatment and prison restrictions. One of 40 men and women fasting at the Ankara office of pro-Kurdish People's Labour Party (HEP) said more than 200 relatives and supporters were fasting in other cities to back the Eskişehir inmates. A senior prison official, who declined to be named, said only 13 prisoners were on a hunger strike. He said prison officials had not beaten prisoners.

Moroccan court jails 30 students

RABAT (R) — A Moroccan court has given 30 students jail sentences ranging from one to five years for their part in clashes with Muslim fundamentalists on a university campus. The official news agency MAP said Friday that 14 other students were acquitted on charges stemming from last month's fighting at the university in Oujda, northeast Morocco. MAP said charges against the students included assault and battery, wounding with knives and axes, and causing an affray. One student was killed and two were seriously injured during the clashes.

Emir of Kuwait arrives in China

PEKING (R) — The Emir of Kuwait, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, arrived in Peking Friday for a two-day goodwill visit. The New China News Agency said the Emir, here at the invitation of President Yang Shangkun, will hold talks with Premier Li Peng and Communist Party General Secretary Jiang Zemin Saturday. Mr. Li visited Kuwait in July as part of a Middle East tour aimed partly at shoring up China's relations with countries in the region following the Gulf war. China abstained from the crucial U.N. Security Council vote authorising use of force against Iraq's armies in Kuwait. Peking is bidding strongly for post-war construction contracts in the emirate.

U.S. fighter radar cone comes adrift

BAHRAIN (R) — The radar cone of a U.S. navy fighter broke loose over the Gulf and smashed into the cockpit, badly injuring the pilot, U.S. officials said Friday. Lieutenant Commander Joe F. Edwards, unable to see out of his right eye and his right collar-bone broken, nursed his F-14 Tomcat back to the aircraft carrier Dwight D. Eisenhower and landed safely after the incident at 8,400 metres. The U.S. Navy forces central command said in a statement that the pilot was injured Wednesday when the radar cone came adrift from the aircraft's nose. He lost communications with the carrier but managed to make an instrument landing "despite the pain from his broken clavicle and the loss of vision from his right eye," the statement said. He was recovering from eye surgery at Bahrain's international hospital.

Ben Bella says no pact with FIS

RENNES, France (R) — Former Algerian President Ahmad Ben Bella has ruled out an alliance with Muslim fundamentalists, despite their shared goal of defeating the party that has dominated Algerian politics since 1962. Mr. Ben Bella, who said he would run in proposed presidential elections, told a French newspaper that the main opposition Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) was intolerant and its leaders had no idea of the chief values of Islam. "As for the Islamists of the Islamic Salvation Front, I have never been tempted by an alliance," Mr. Ben Bella said in an interview with the daily Ouest-France published Friday. He urged President Chadli Benjedid to call a presidential poll soon after the first multi-party parliamentary elections set for Dec. 26, with a run-off on Jan. 16. "Whoever is the winner of the parliamentary election, we must move on quickly to a presidential election, and I am a candidate," he said. The elections, scheduled for last June, were put off after FIS protests sparked bloody riots in June. The FIS has threatened to boycott the poll. Mr. Benjedid has promised a presidential election as soon as conditions permit. He has for three years been steering Algeria away from the socialist system in which the National Liberation Front (FLN) had monopolised political life since independence in 1962. Mr. Ben Bella, Algeria's first president who was deposed by a coup in 1965, called the FLN an "empty shell." He had said shortly before returning last year from 10 years in exile that he would not run for president. But he changed his mind, announcing earlier this year that he would stand.

EC tells Iraq to honour Kurdish pact

BRUSSELS (R) — The European Community (EC) urged Iraq on Friday to honour its pledge to end an economic blockade of Kurdistan in return for Kurdish rebels' withdrawal from cities in the north of the country. The deal, announced by Kurdish leaders earlier this week, is aimed at ending Baghdad's three-week-old blockade of Kurdistan, which has caused severe shortages of petrol and sharp food price increases. "EC states" expect the Iraqi authorities to respect their undertakings and demand an end to Iraqi attempts to disrupt economic life in the north," the 12 EC countries said in a joint statement. They also said Iraq must cease its attacks on Shiite Muslims in the south after a failed rebellion. The statement blamed the government for growing food shortages in Iraq and said the population would be better off if Baghdad bowed to United Nations Security Council resolutions passed after the Gulf war. Iraq blames the plight of its citizens on the U.N. resolutions, which aim to control Baghdad's income from oil.

Israel wants to try Ashrawi

(Continued from page 1)

presenting the Palestinian case. Asked about the Israeli accusations, Dr. Ashrawi said: "I did not commit any offence. I refuse to answer any more questions on that issue."

A senior source said Dr. Ashrawi's prominent role in the peace process would be considered when the government makes its decision. "We are certain all these things will be taken into consideration," the source said.

Justice Ministry spokeswoman Ety Eshed would only confirm that the attorney general received the police file on Dr. Ashrawi, but refused to say what police recommended.

Prime Minister Shamir's Yossi Alhineh said the next move was up to the attorney general. When asked about the possible political consequence, he said: "The law has to be preserved at any cost."

Dr. Ashrawi told the AP the step was "petty and vindictive, nothing but harassment."

"It shows how desperate the Israelis are in trying to obstruct the peace process," she said in a telephone interview from her home in the West Bank town of Ramallah. "But Palestinian voice will not be silenced."

Dr. Ashrawi said Mr. Shamir was "clutching at straws" to undermine peace. "I know peace had many enemies but when a state resorts to this... it shows there is no level to which they would not sink."

Dr. Ashrawi and Mr. Hussein

are not members of the Palestinian delegation, but are viewed as the key people behind the scenes. Many Israelis consider them to be the delegation's contact with the PLO.

Dr. Ashrawi is a professor at Bir Zeit University near Ramallah. A native of Jerusalem, a Christian and an articulate defender of the Palestinian cause, she is often seen as defying the traditional image of the Palestinian woman.

Palestinian leaders and liberal Israelis condemned the police move as harmful to the peace process.

"It is a campaign of terror against the negotiators," said Ghassan Khatib, a Palestinian delegate.

Haider Abdul Shafi, the head of the Palestinian team, called on the United States and the Soviet Union to block any legal steps against Dr. Ashrawi. He said the negotiators have been promised immunity.

But Mr. Shamir denied such notions. "They will not have immunity before the law, but we will also not browbeat them," he noted in the Haaretz interview.

Eliyakin Haezani, a hardline legislator who filed the complaint against Dr. Ashrawi and Mr. Hussein, praised the move.

"I feel very good," he said, but added that he did not think Dr. Ashrawi would be prosecuted. "This will be killed for political reasons," he said.

Dr. Ashrawi and Mr. Hussein have repeatedly said they are guided by the PLO, but have

denied actual meetings with PLO leaders. They were questioned twice by police concerning allegations that they met during summer with PLO officials abroad.

Police based their recommendation mainly on an interview with Jordan Television in which Dr. Ashrawi allegedly acknowledged that she met PLO officials, Israeli reports said.

Shamir

(Continued from page 1)

not give back the Golan Heights which Israel took from Syria the 1967 war and annexed 1981.

Asked how he could reach agreement with Syria while jecting Syria's key demand, said: "Simple. We sign a peace treaty."

Mr. Shamir said he envisioned agreements to reduce military tension along the frontier, such letting the other side know advance about military exercises.

Mr. Shamir also said he convinced his policies were supported by a large majority in Likud Bloc and among the Jewish settlements in the Golan Heights.

An opinion poll published Friday in the Jerusalem Post indicated that the right-wing Likud Bloc would gain at the expense of the opposition Labour Party if election were held today.

Thirty-seven per cent of Likud voters said they would support Likud, up from 34 per cent in last general election in 1980.

Jordan, Syria pursue closer coordination

(Continued from page 1)

said last week in Syria that the PLO and Syria had agreed that the third stage of the Middle East peace conference should not start until bilateral negotiations make substantial progress on Israeli withdrawal from the occupied territories.

Jordan has said it will attend the multilateral talks, scheduled from mid-December, to try to resolve crucial issues such as water but it said it will not sign any final agreements with Israel without tangible progress on the Palestinian problem. Members of the Palestinian negotiating team have said their position is not dissimilar to Jordan's even though they have reservations about discussing the issue of "refugees" in the multilateral talks.

In his interview, Mr. Kabariti underlined the importance of inter-Arab coordination, saying that "Jordan believes that political action should not remain restricted to dealing exclusively with the American factor."

He explained that the Arab side "must coordinate towards building a negotiating position that is based on basic principles agreed upon by all Arab parties rather than leave it to others to set the course. An agreement on basic issues is better than not reaching an agreement on anything."

He also stressed that Jordan "feels that we must not concentrate on the form (in the context of the peace process) at the expense of substance."

His statement appeared to reflect a veiled criticism voiced by Jordanian officials of what was perceived in Madrid as a Syrian focus on procedural issues rather than substance.

Mr. Abu Jaber had earlier deplored a decision adopted by the Israeli Knesset last week considering the Syrian Golan Heights as "non-negotiable" Israeli territory.

The minister described the resolution as "part of (Israeli) provocations that constitute a contradiction with American guarantees and commitments by the co-sponsors, in addition to U.N. Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338 and the principle of exchanging land for peace."

"It seems there is an intention

by some parties in Israel to blow up the entire peace process through such actions such as a daily bombardment of South Lebanon, the building of a new settlement in the Golan and the Knesset resolution."

Syria has sent protest letters to the United States and Soviet Union about the Israeli parliament vote to uphold continued occupation of the Golan Heights.

Officials said Friday Foreign Minister Sharrara handed over the letters to the U.S. and Soviet ambassadors in Damascus.

Washington and Moscow are co-sponsors of Middle East peace talks which opened in Madrid last month.

Israel's parliament passed a draft resolution Monday placing the Golan Heights off-limits in the negotiations.

The letters, handed over Thursday night, said the Israeli decision contradicted assurances given by the United States and the Soviet Union that U.N. Resolution 242 calling for the Jewish state's withdrawal from occupied lands "applied to all fronts."

The letters said: "The Israeli Knesset decision is an attempt to undermine the peace process and constitutes a flagrant violation of U.N. Resolutions 242 and 338 on which the Madrid peace conference was held."

Officials said Mr. Sharrara delivered similar messages to foreign ministers of the European Community during a separate meeting on Thursday with EC ambassa-

dors.

Syrian U.N. Charge d'Affaires Issa Awad sent a letter to the Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar Thursday complaining at a time about Israel's building of Jewish settlements in the Golan Heights.

Kuwait Friday voiced protest to the Israeli parliament vote to hold onto the Golan Heights.

"The Israeli decision that Israel does not want peace, only wants to challenge the international legitimacy and people's feelings," the Kuwait News Agency quoted a Foreign Ministry official as saying.

Damascus was a key Arab ally of the U.S.-led alliance which ended Iraq's occupation of Kuwait at the end of February.

In a television interview Thursday, Saudi Arabia's influential monarch said that if Israel wants peace with the Arabs, it must withdraw from the occupied Arab lands.

"We cannot deny the existence of Israel, but the real issue is whether Israel wants stability without King Fahd told the London-based weekly Middle East Broadcasting Centre.

"The Arabs have proved their want peace and it is now up to Israel if it wants peace," he said.

The return of the Sinai deserts to Egypt under the 1979 peace treaty "is proof that the West Bank, Gaza, the Golan and Jerusalem constitute a legitimate relationship that can never be denied," King Fahd said.

Jordan underlines refugee problem

(Continued from page 1)

Mr. Salah urged the international community to intensify its efforts to achieve a settlement of the Middle East problem and said the time is opportune to resolve the Palestinian-Israeli problem.

"The international community can help in this regard by increasing support to UNRWA and by pressuring Israel to implement U.N. resolutions, particularly Resolution 194 which affirms the refugees' right to return or to be reimbursed and commits Israel to do so," he said.

He said Israel created the Palestinian refugees' problem in 1948 and aggravated it since then as a result of its refusal to imple-

ment Resolution 194.

The envoy said the UNRWA services to the refugees are extremely important and constitute a basic element in their lives. He urged the agency to retain assistance to them. "UNRWA should continue extending aid to the Palestinians until the problem is settled permanently," he said.

"The peace efforts do not contradict with UNRWA's work which started all, but even require the expansion of the range of assistance," he added.

The current peace efforts, he said, are based on the principle of international legitimacy, particularly resolutions 242 and 338, which affirm the refugees' right to return or to be reimbursed and commits Israel to do so.

'New evidence' deepens Maxwell death riddle

LONGOND (R) — A British newspaper Friday said it had obtained fresh evidence that deepened the mystery over the death of media mogul Robert Maxwell.

In a report from the Canary Islands, the Guardian said Spanish doctors who carried out a post-mortem on the British publisher found a minute perforation of the skin below one ear.

Spanish authorities had only the word of the family that the body was Mr. Maxwell's and, contrary to the first announcement, the autopsy did not conclude that Mr. Maxwell died of natural causes before falling into the sea from his yacht, the paper said.

Mr. Maxwell, 68, was found floating in waters off the island of Grand Canary on Nov. 5 several hours after the crew of his yacht Lady Ghislaine reported him missing.

An initial autopsy suggested Mr. Maxwell might have died from a heart attack but Spanish lawyer Julio Hernandez Claverie, acting for Mr. Maxwell's family, has said accidental death and murder are possibilities.

Speculation over the cause of

Mr. Maxwell's death has mounted in recent days. Insurers could have to pay up to £20 million (\$35 million) if he did not die of natural causes.

"It (the Spanish autopsy report) nowhere offers a likely cause of death," the Guardian said. "The only possibility it rules out is straightforward drowning. There was not enough water in the lungs."

The corpse did not show the usual signs of lengthy exposure to sea, the Guardian said.

Mr. Maxwell was given a hero's burial on Jerusalem's Mount of Olives last Sunday with investigations into his death still under way by Spanish authorities and British insurers.

The captain of his yacht, Gus Rankin, complained Thursday of "press hounding" and said the crew, told to stay in Tenerife pending further inquiries, would make no statement until Spanish authorities gave their verdict on the tycoon's death.

Mr. Maxwell left corporate debts of more than £2 billion (\$3.5 billion) and at the time of his death was enmeshed in allegations of links with Israel's secret service.

PLO hopes to reopen Washington office

TUNIS (AP) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) hopes it will be allowed to reopen its office in Washington if the next phase of the Middle East peace process takes place there, a spokesman said Friday.

The office was ordered closed last year when U.S. officials broke off dialogue with the PLO, saying it had failed to punish Mohammad Abbas (Abul Abbas), then an Executive Committee member, for masterminding a raid on an Israeli beach.

The site for the next phase of the Arab-Israeli peace negotiations, which began in Madrid last month, has not yet been determined because of differing views among the parties.

The Washington area has been suggested as a compromise venue. PLO spokesman Ahmad Abdul Rahman said the PLO was hopeful that its office in the U.S. capital could reopen if the talks took place there.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel: 773111-19	
PROGRAMME TWO	
18:00	Le Chevalier de Labryntine
18:30	Les Chevaliers du Ciel
19:00	Documentary
19:30	News in Hebrew
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Totally Hidden VI
21:00	Encounter
21:30	Life on the Land
22:00	News in English
22:30	Feature Film: "Cold Sweat"
PRAYER TIMES	
04:35	Fajr
05:54	(Sunrise) Dhuhr
11:19	Dhuhr
14:19	"Asr
16:45	Maghreb
18:04	"Isa
CHURCHES	
St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swifeth, Tel. 810740	
Assumption of God Church, Tel. 632785	
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590	
Church of the Assumption Tel. 637440	
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757	
Terrence Church Tel. 622566	
Church of the Assumption Tel. 623541	
Anglican Church Tel. 623383, Tel. 628543	
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331	
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 772681	
St. Raphael Church Tel. 771751	
Armenian International Church Tel. 685326	
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811251	
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 623824, 654932	
Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691	
WEATHER	
Bullatin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.	
It will be fair and windy with southerly moderate, in Aqaba winds will be northerly moderate and sea calm.	
Min./Max. temp. 9/23	
Aqaba 14/28	
Deserts 7/24	
Jordan Valley 16/26	
Yesterday's high temperatures: Amman 23, Aqaba 27. Humidity readings:	

JORDAN T

AMBULANCE 36 per cent, Aqaba 30 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMBULANCE	
Dr. Tawfiq Qub'a	623029
Dr. Saoud Tawfiq	782225
Dr. Ghaleb Zawahid	782225
Dr. Basim Fakhreddin	782225
First pharmacy	651912
Perdows pharmacy	782336
Al Asema pharmacy	637005
Nadwath pharmacy	626772
Al Salam pharmacy	637730
Yacoub pharmacy	644945
Shamsi pharmacy	637660
EMERGENCIES	
Food Control Centre	637111
Civil Defence Department	661111
Civil Defence Immediate	661111
Rescue	63041
Civil Defence Emergency	199
Rescue Police	192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade	891275
Blood Bank	775121
Highway Police	843402
Traffic Police	896390
Police	

King congratulates Syrian, Palestinian people on anniversaries

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Friday sent a cable to Syrian President Hafez Al Assad, congratulating him on the anniversary of the corrective movement, which brought President Assad to power.

The King wished President Assad continued good health and happiness and the Syrian people further progress and prosperity.

On Thursday, King Hussein sent a cable to Palestinian President Yasser Arafat congratulating him on the third anniversary of the declaration of the independent Palestinian state. King Hussein said the Palestinian people

and all peace-loving nations and those who stand by the right and justice mark this occasion amidst international support for the legitimate Palestinian rights and international legitimacy, as reflected by the United Nations resolutions on the Palestine question.

King Hussein added that the document of independence would not have seen life and the great support the Palestinian cause had canvassed would not have been made possible had it not been for the sacrifices of the Palestinian people over the ages.

ESCWA officer leaves for banking conference

AMMAN (J.T.) — The executive secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA), will leave Amman for Rome today to take part in a banking conference.

Dr. Tayseer Abdul Jabbar will participate in the Annual Banking Conference by the Union of Arab Banks, which will take place from Monday to Wednesday.

Dr. Abdul Jabbar will submit a paper on a project to establish an "Arab Bank for Reconstruction and Development."

The conference, which will be held under the motto "Arab Banks — Present and Future Challenges" gains its importance from the fact that it takes place in the aftermath of the serious events which took place in the Arab World, at a time when every bank official is faced with a

big question on the characteristics of the forthcoming phase and on the means and ways to cope with its results and overcome its repercussions, according to an ESCWA statement.

The conference will also be attended by a group of distinguished Arab decision-makers in the field of banks and finance who will prepare specific working papers intended to cast light on the subjects dealt with by the conference, the statement said.

The governor of the Central Bank of Italy, Carlo Scempi, will inaugurate the conference with an opening statement.

ESCWA attaches particular importance to this conference, whose decisions will further support banking and financial cooperation among the countries of Western Asia.

Agriculture minister outlines region's problems to FAO meeting in Rome

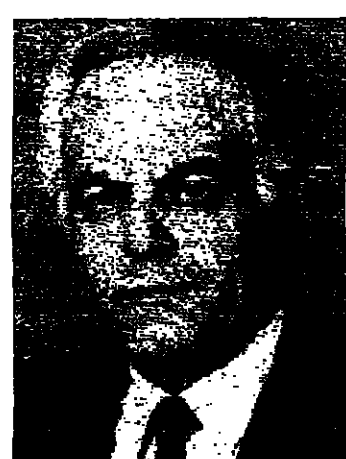
ROME (Petra) — Agriculture Minister Subhi Al Qasem said Friday the Middle East is suffering from an increasing food gap as a result of the area's inability to produce food quantities proportionate to population growth.

In Jordan's address to the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) general conference currently convened in Rome, Dr. Qasem said the FAO's medium range plan has defined all the problems facing the agricultural sector and the challenges facing it, which the near east countries cannot overcome without serious cooperation with the international community.

The minister voiced Jordan's appreciation to the organisation for providing technical assistance for two agricultural projects in the Kingdom.

He stressed the need to intensify programmes which could enhance scientific relations and joint ventures between universities and governmental institutions. He lauded the FAO's efforts in this field and expressed hope that the organisation's regional office will help the countries of the region in enhancing their technical capabilities.

Dr. Qasem thanked the director general of the FAO for im-



Subhi Al Qasem

plementing the organisation's resolution calling for extending technical aid to the Palestinian people and seconding a delegation to the Israeli-occupied Arab territories to study and assess the agricultural situation in the territories.

He said Jordan hoped that the recommendations issued by a seminar organised by the organisation recently on the Palestinian agricultural sector be implemented in order to help the Palestinian people who are suffering because of the Israeli occupation of their lands.

Safari promoting Jordanian tourism sites ends

MAAN (Petra) — A weeklong car race which started from Amman ended in Aqaba Thursday.

"Ruta Los Nabateos '91," a safari on four-wheel drives, was organised by a local tourism company in cooperation with the Ministry of Tourism and the national air carrier, Royal Jordanian (RJ).

One Jordanian team and 26 Spanish teams took part in the race, which was held as part of the Kingdom's ongoing celebrations of His Majesty King Hussein's birthday. It was filmed and telecast to viewers in Spain by crews from Spanish television who accompanied

the participants in all the stages of the race.

The route of the safari, organised by the ministry in its bid to promote Jordan's touristic and archaeological sites abroad, took the participants from Amman to Aqaba via Al Al Azraq, Karak, Petra, Mudawwara and Wadi Ram.

Members of the team, which participated in the race, said in earlier statements to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that they were deeply impressed with Jordan's archaeological treasures, its hospitable people and the wonderful weather.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Exhibition entitled "Graphic Arts of the 60s" (from the Federal Republic of Germany) at the Abdul Hameed Shuman Foundation gallery (open from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m.)
- ★ Exhibition entitled "The Arab Traditional House, Selected Rooms of our Heritage" by Hana Sadeq Burdon at Baladina Gallery, Gardens Street.
- ★ Exhibition of traditional embroidery and handmade items at the Marriott Hotel.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings depicting scenes from Aqaba and Jordan by Jordanian artist Kamal Shahawi Yassin at the Housing Bank Gallery.
- ★ Art exhibition by Ibrahim Shalabi at Al Orthodox Club.



Students perform Thursday at Hussein Youth City's Palace of Culture in commemoration of His Majesty King Hussein's 56th birthday (Petra photo)

Flags, posters, celebrations mark King's 56th birthday

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan Thursday celebrated His Majesty King Hussein's 56th birthday, with festivals throughout the country.

City streets and entrances were bedecked with the Jordanian flags, posters, congratulatory notices and pictures of the King. All ministries, government departments and public institutions observed a holiday Thursday to mark the occasion.

The major celebration was held at Hussein Youth City's Palace of Culture, under the patronage of His Majesty King Hussein, who deputised the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Transport and Communications Ali Subeimat to attend the celebration.

King praises Jordanian youth

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Friday expressed pride in and appreciation of the youth's achievements in the various sports fields.

In a telephone interview with Jordan Television's sports programme conducted on the occasion of the King's birthday, King Hussein said the youth are "the nation's hope in the present and the future."

He wished them further achievements in the various sports fields.

"We appreciate dearly what they have achieved in many fields so far in spite of the scarcity of resources and the difficult situations," King Hussein said. "Jordan had crossed a long distance and we pride ourselves in its reputation, which is now known all over the world. We are confident that we will overcome all obstacles and challenges."

"All my life I have tried to encourage our youth and I have tried to be with them. They are always in my heart and mind."

In Aqaba, King Hussein attended a major celebration held by the coastal guard and inaugurated a number of the most advanced boats, which recently joined the corps fleet.

The King also went aboard one of the boats on a short voyage. The commander of the corps then presented the King with a token gift on his birthday. The King and the audience watched the exhibition of marine equipment, which was held especially to mark the occasion.

Also attending the celebration were His Royal Highnesses Princes Faisal, Abdullah, Hamzah and Hashem, sons of the King, Prime Minister Taher Masri, the King's military secretary Prince Talal Ibn Mohammad, the Armed Forces Chief of Staff Field Marshal Fathi Abu Taleb, his assistants and a number of senior military and civil officials.

In Karak, Planning Minister Ziad Fariz stood in for King Hussein in opening the first Jordanian Industrial Exhibition in the southern governorates, held at Mutah University to mark the occasion.

On the occasion, King Hussein received congratulatory cables from a number of Arab and world leaders in which they wished the King continued good health and happiness and the Jordanian people further progress and prosperity.

The cables were sent by King Hassan II of Morocco, Sultan

Qaboos Ibn Said of Oman, Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, Iraqi President Saddam Hussein, Palestinian President Yasser Arafat, Speaker of the Palestinian National Council Sheikh Abdul Hamid Al Sayeh.

The King also received congratulatory cables from U.S. President George Bush, Queen Elizabeth of Britain, Soviet Leader Mikhail Gorbachev, Sultan Hassan Bilqiah of Brunei Dar Es Salam, Philippine President Corason Aquino, President of Czechoslovakia Vaclav Havel and President of the Peoples Democratic Republic of Korea Kim Il Sung.

Here at home senior government officials congratulated the King and recalled with pride His Majesty's principled stands towards all Arab issues and his strenuous efforts to safeguard the rights of the Arab nation and its unity.

They also commended Jordan's achievements in all fields.

In their cables to the King, they wished him continued good health and happiness. The cables were sent by Prime Minister Taher Masri, the acting speaker of the upper house of Parliament and the speaker of the Lower House, the Amman mayor the chief Islamic justice, the Armed Forces Chief of Staff, directors of the Public Security, Civil Defence and the General Intelligence Departments and heads of professional associations and unions.

Companies encouraged to "adopt" a village

By Maha Addasi
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — On the occasion of His Majesty King Hussein's birthday, the Philadelphia Hotel Friday took the first steps in initiating a programme to "adopt" the impoverished Zneileh village.

Although the village lies only 70 km south of Amman, Zneileh does not have any electricity and its population of 800 survives on a scarce amount of water and the small amounts of food they can afford, sources said.

"Children privileged enough to pay the JD 3 annual school fee sit in classes during winter and just shiver," Mohammad Kassab, said the headmaster of the boys' secondary school in Zneileh. "There are no heating systems in the classrooms and the entire school shares a single heater fueled with coal."

To the observant eye, students ranging in age from 6 to 14 years of age appear to be the same height and weight. "I have tea for breakfast," an 8 year old boy said, which, according to Mr. Kassab, is the normal breakfast for the children in Zneileh.

The programme which was launched Friday started with the distribution of lunch boxes, sweaters, and school supplies to each student in the Zneileh area, the general manager of the Philadelphia Hotel said the support of the village will con-

tinue.

"Every Saturday from now on we will provide children in the Zneileh schools with a nourishing meal," said Faisal Abu Nuwar, the general manager of the Philadelphia Hotel. "And we want to encourage other companies to adopt other impoverished villages, of which there are many in the Kingdom."

Mr. Abu Nuwar said that Jordan has always helped countries in need, but that it must also turn its attention to the needy people in Jordan.

"There is a list at the General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS) of villages that are most needy of help at this time. If every bank and every company gets the name of such villages and takes care of them, by providing their necessities only during the many special occasions, then we can draw attention and help those who are most in need of help," Mr. Abu Nuwar said.

"We must work on eliminating poverty in Jordan and this is a good way to start."

"We hope that other companies would pick up on this idea," a senior sales executive at the Philadelphia Hotel said. "We want other companies to adopt different villages and not specify one village and all shower that one village only," Nadir Amre said. "We want even distribution of aid."

"For example, the Zneileh village needs heaters and prop-

er playground area and the Philadelphia Hotel will continue to find out this village's needs and will help to provide them," Mr. Amre added.

The children in Zneileh need many things, including medical services, that are taken for granted elsewhere, Mr. Kassab said. "There is a general practitioner who visits for a few hours three times every week. When an emergency case comes up, it takes a while to transport the person to the Jilch area, about 22 km away. Transport is very difficult also, so medical help is delayed," he said.

Mr. Kassab indicated the extreme need for transportation. "Look there," he said, as he pointed towards the distance. "You can see the horizon but you cannot see any houses from here. No look at the children walking towards the horizon. Their homes are that far away. These children walk to school everyday under sunlight or freezing conditions. When they get to school all they care about is to attempt to get comfortable," he said.

Mr. Abu Nuwar said that there are two ways for people to improve. "Piety and education make for an improved society," he told staff members at the Zneileh schools Friday. "Through these two means, people can improve from poverty to a better standard of living."

Minister, industrialists agree to form committee to address concerns

AMMAN (Petra) — Finance Minister Basel Jardaneh has said that the government is concerned about developing the industrial sector in Jordan and is keen to find new markets for Jordanian products with the ultimate goal of serving the national economy.

Mr. Jardaneh, who was speaking at a meeting with chairman and members of the Amman Chamber of Industry (ACI) and representatives of the industrial sector in Jordan, said the consumption tax which the government has recently imposed is not aimed at increasing the government's revenues.

Rather, the tax was imposed to organize and protect the economic policies which have been formulated by the Planning Ministry and leading specialised international institutions as part of the economic reform plan drawn up in 1989.



Basel Jardaneh

He noted that the government is keen on protecting local industries and added that it imposed a tax of 50 per cent on imports and reduced the tax on some imported items from 60 per cent to 50 per cent. He expressed confidence that Jordanian industry is capable of overcoming any problems facing its progress and development, adding that it will continue to safeguard the interest of Jordan.

Mr. Jardaneh said the Finance Ministry has a role in easing the burdens on Jordanian industries and helping solve any problems facing this sector.

He also welcomed the idea proposed by the Amman Chamber of Industry to set up a committee to study all issues related

to the application of the customs law and another committee to study the negative consequences and problems created as a result of the imposition of the consumption tax.

ACI Chairman Khaludun Abu Hassan stressed the importance of cooperation between the public and private sectors, saying that such cooperation will serve the country's interests.

He outlined the negative consequences and problems which might arise from the application of the consumption tax. He also said that the industrial sector has been suffering from the customs law, which has never been changed, dual taxation at certain times.

Mr. Abu Hassan proposed the formation of a joint committee grouping representatives of the ministries of finance, industry, trade and supply and the Amman Chamber of Industry to discuss the problems obstructing the progress of the industrial sector.

The meeting came up with a joint communiqué which said that industrial sector representatives and the Finance Ministry officials had agreed to the formation of a joint working group which will be entrusted with studying the industrial sector's complaints. The group will concentrate on the customs and other duties and taxes, including the consumption tax, on industry inputs, avoiding dual taxation, organisation of customs control on items now subject to consumption tax.

1,000 people take part in march to raise funds for cancer centres

By Serese Halasa
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Around 1,000 people took part in the Charity Walk Friday organised by the Jordan Cancer Society (JCS) as part of a campaign for the "Prevention and Early Detection of Cancer." JCS officials hoped to raise funds to help build centres for the prevention and early detection of cancer, which they said will cost around JD 1 million, in addition to treatment costs.

Marchers gathered at the parking lot of the Regency Hotel at 9 a.m. and completed a walk of about 18 kilometres.

"We expected a greater number of people, but all in all the turnout was not bad," said Dr. Mohammad Saeed Al Khatib, president of JCS.

Earlier, the society had launched an appeal to the public at large to participate in the march and help raise funds to

finance the much needed centres.

"We will not be able to know the amount of money we collected, but I assume we will know by Monday," Dr. Khatib told the Jordan Times.

According to an earlier statement issued by the JCS, the society is planning an ambitious project for early detection and prevention of cancer which will include fixed and mobile units that will be responsible in extending help to the public. Locations suggested in building the fixed cancer detection centres are in Irbid, Zarqa, Karak and Amman.

The early detection campaign will have a clear impact on the health of the patients, since early detection of the killer disease can dramatically improve the cure rate in most cases, according to the statement.

Because of the lack of a

cancer registry system in the Kingdom, the JCS also hopes to establish a register of cancer cases in cooperation with the Health Ministry and other concerned institutions to provide accurate information about the cancer situation in the Kingdom.

Most common cancers in Jordan, based on a study of 2,034 new cases seen at Jordan University Hospital in the 1987-1989 period, are lymphoma, gastrointestinal tract, genitourinary tract (mainly bladder) acute leukemia, respiratory tract and lung or breast for women, the statement pointed out.

The JCS charity march was organised on the occasion of the birthday of His Majesty King Hussein, the honorary president of the society. Established in 1964, the society hosts around 200 members concerned with combating the killer disease.

Local ADC office continuing efforts against Israeli loan guarantee request

By Nidal M. Ibrahim
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — With the current Middle East peace process temporarily on hold and Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir in Washington, the issue of U.S. loan guarantees to Israel is again attracting attention.

But while the issue is just now re-emerging in the public's consciousness, the efforts of the local branch of the American Arab Anti-Discrimination Committee (ADC) have gone unabated. The importance of the loan guarantees, and their impact on the peace process, is increasing as Syria and Israel square off daily on the issue of the Golan Heights and ongoing settlement activity on the strategic plateau.

"I think, of course, it is important," said Aida Dabbas, director of the ADC Amman office. "All Arab countries oppose these guarantees."

Ms. Dabbas is heading the efforts of the Amman office to rally American public opinion in opposition to the \$10 billion loan guarantee request.

Local ADC efforts range from encouraging Jordanians and Palestinians to write to

President George Bush, U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and U.S. ambassador to the United Nations Thomas Pickering to urging Americans to write to their senators and congressmen. In addition, the ADC will mail letters free of charge or fax letters at cost.

The organisation has also provided interested people and companies with form letters, addresses and fax number to make their voices heard.

"We've faxed almost every company with a fax memo urging them to write letters of opposition," she said.

Posters around Amman include information on how to lobby Congress and the Bush administration against the guarantees.

"We've put posters around town which had little address slips that can be taken out for easy use to send letters," Ms. Dabbas said.

While it is hard to gauge the response, Ms. Dabbas said she and other local ADC officials are encouraged.

"I think people are interested in doing something," Ms. Dabbas said. "If they feel they can do something, they will do it. I think it's a very good, positive response," she

added. "And it's still going on. We still have our posters around town."

The campaign, while vigorous, has been limited, she said. "We have a very energetic, small staff," Ms. Dabbas said. "Everything that is done is done by a small group of people that are very dedicated to what they're doing."

The response by one gentleman, a local veterinarian, has encouraged the ADC staff. "He heard of our campaign and he had a briefcase with 3,000 letters," Ms. Dabbas said.

Other than calling American citizens and urging them to write their representatives, Ms. Dabbas acknowledges that the most letters from Jordanians and Palestinians to congressmen will do is provide "indirect" pressure.

"If they get 10,000 letters from Jordan, it means a lot of Jordanians are unhappy about U.S. policy," she said.

The local ADC office, she said, will continue to help interested persons to send letters of opposition to the loan guarantees. The U.S. Congress is expected to vote on the matter in February.

Newly-elected committee of Mafrag's AYF chapter holds first meeting

AMMAN (Petra) — The newly-elected administrative committee of the Mafrag chapter of the Arab Youth Forum (AYF) held a meeting at its premises.

The meeting was attended by a representative of the forum's president, Abdullah Kanaan, the Mafrag governor, department directors in the Mafrag governorate

and members of the Women's Federation.

Addressing the gathering, Mr. Kanaan conveyed to the newly-elected committee the congratulations of the AYF president, His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, and reviewed some characteristics of the AYF's work.

He noted that the forum is not a political party and that its philosophy and strategy call for the respect of all opinions and for expanding constructive dialogue.

Mr. Kanaan urged the youth to translate their belonging to the nation and their loyalty to the noble meanings which the Hashemite leadership represents.

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Shamir sings own tune

IN 1929, Vladimir Jabotinsky, a prominent leader of the Zionist movement, told the 16th Zionist congress that "Palestine is a territory whose chief geographical feature is this: That the River Jordan does not delineate its frontier but flows through its centre."

Jabotinsky's student, Menachem Begin, the former Israeli prime minister and mentor of the incumbent prime minister, Yitzhak Shamir, decreed similar ideas in his book, *The Revolt: Story of the Irgun*.

"The partition of the homeland is illegal. It will never be recognised," Begin said. "The signature by institutions and individuals of the partition agreement is invalid. It will not bind the Jewish people. Jerusalem was and will for ever be our capital. Eretz Israel will be restored to the people of Israel. All of it. And for ever."

Shamir is visiting Washington with the legacy of both Jabotinsky and Begin on his shoulders and deep in his heart. At his age, 76, he cannot forego the dream that he and his colleague Begin fought for when they headed Jewish terror groups in the 1930 and the 1940s.

But Shamir probably will not be talking about his grand designs with his American "friends." Most urgent on the minds of the Likud-led Israeli establishment is to improve relations with the U.S. administration and to maintain strong support at the U.S. Congress. The prime minister will of course want to tell American Jews and the powerful Israeli lobby in the U.S. that Israel not only needs to keep Arab lands but that it directly needs American funds to settle Soviet Jews there. His mission will most certainly focus on getting a reluctant Jewish audience to put more pressure on Congress and the administration to revitalise a seemingly declining and strained relationship.

But Shamir is in a different U.S. Gone are the days when Israel could capitalise on the Soviet threat, Arab "terror" or Arab unwillingness to make peace with the Jewish state. He goes to a changed superpower that in the words of President George Bush wants a new world where peace replaces war, cooperation replaces confrontation and one in which Israel would give up its dream of a greater Israel and trade land for peace.

We are not in any way underestimating the strength of the Jewish lobby or Israel's friends in the U.S. However, we note that the U.S. has always made its position clear on the settlement of the Arab-Israeli conflict on the basis of resolutions 242 and 338 and the principles of international legitimacy. On March 6, President Bush told Congress that "a comprehensive peace must be grounded in U.N. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338 and the principle of territory for peace. This principle must be elaborated to provide for Israel's security and recognition, and, at the same time, for legitimate Palestinian political rights."

We trust that the U.S. administration will hold to its declared positions and will see to it that its pledge to pursue the peace process to the end is fulfilled. In order to do this, however, the U.S. first has to see the dichotomy between what Shamir wants for Israel and what he needs from the U.S. to do it. The two should be mutually exclusive as far as the U.S. is concerned. They are to everybody else, save Shamir himself.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

AL RA'I Arabic daily said Friday there can be no meaning to Washington's on going efforts to normalise relations between the Arab states and Israel at a time when the Jewish state pursues an aggressive policy against the Arab states in general and the Lebanese and the Palestinians in particular. As the Americans are busy themselves with preparations for the third stage of the peace negotiations, which entails discussions of regional problems and normalising relations between the Arabs and Israel, the Jewish state is continuing a programme of building settlements on Arab lands and maintaining aggression on southern Lebanon, said the paper. It said that Washington should first end the aggression, return the land to its lawful owners and then seek normalisation of relations between the two sides. As long as there are Israeli provocations and as long as aggression continues, there is no way for normalisation of relations and Washington should direct its attention to the bilateral talks, which entail ending the occupation of Arab land, before any other issue can be considered at the peace parley, the paper demanded. The paper said no Arab party can become involved in any unilateral treaty with Israel as the Arabs are in agreement to achieve a single deal, and therefore, current Israeli manoeuvres can earn the Jewish state nothing but further condemnation. The paper said that unless the bilateral talks are successful, there is no chance whatsoever for the multilateral negotiations to attain any success.

A columnist in Sawt Al Shaab daily called on Parliament members to give up their ongoing haggling over involving their Parliament blocs in ministerial positions and urged all deputies to give their attention to pressing domestic social and economic issues. Salamah Ekour said that the deputies seem to be concerned only in forming blocs to ensure their participation in the government and to fill ministerial posts, and they have forgotten the purpose for which they had been elected to Parliament. Those opposing the government of Prime Minister Taher Al Masri are not doing this because they oppose Jordan's participation in the peace conference, as they realise that no government, whether headed by Mr. Masri or another figure, would not be able to keep Jordan away from such an important parley, said the writer. Those opposing Mr. Masri's policies are doing this purely for personal reasons and because they aim to create a government in which their blocs can be represented at any cost, he argued. The writer expressed the view that the prime minister should turn away from deputies and direct his attention to technical issues playing the country, he should leave the deputies to attend to local matters concerning their own constituencies.

Ekour said that the Jordanian citizens are suffering from soaring prices, unemployment and other chronic issues which require urgent solutions, but the deputies are not contributing anything at all towards solving these problems and are rather running after ministerial posts.

By Ezer Weizmann

IF the Chinese saying that even a journey of a thousand miles starts with one small step is correct, then the conference which has opened in Madrid constitutes the first small step towards a comprehensive peace between Israel, the Arab states and the Palestinians. This, of course, excludes Egypt, which in its wisdom has been well ahead of the other Arabs. I feel optimistic. The final outcome of the current international and interpersonal upheaval will be peace between us and the Arab states, a peace that is going to be made after a long, nerve-racking and painful process.

The source of my optimism is my assessment of the situation in today's Middle East. I believe that if we and our Arab neighbours value our lives, we have no choice but to bicker with one another until we sign a peace

treaty, and to get to that point let me tell you why.

The first and main reason is the nuclear one. Last week something important happened in this context yet, to my amazement, the reports from Karachi and Jerusalem were largely ignored by the media. The Pakistanis announced, with a fanfare, that they had become "a nuclear power," and our defence minister, Moshe Arens, announced in the Knesset that "the Middle East has entered the nuclear age."

I am fully aware of the argument that if the Arabs have nuclear weapons, so should we. This is meaningless. Israel's ability to absorb a nuclear attack is unlike that of Arab states. The moment the nuclear option enters the Middle East, we have no more deterrent. We might have 1,000 more tanks and 500 more planes than all Arab forces put together, yet these weapons pale

into insignificance in the face of the nuclear threat.

Last week's reports about nuclear weapons existing in the Middle East have passed over our heads, as if this was a matter of changing the .105mm artillery gun to a 155mm one. This is a bad mistake. Nothing is more important or more serious than what is on the agenda today in the region. Yitzhak Shamir, his friends and we ourselves can only "play for time" until the moment at which Saddam Hussein or any other Arab leader gets his hands on the trigger of nuclear bomb. We would be wise to make peace before that happens.

The second reason is that the United States is sticking stubbornly to its position. Since the 1967 Arab-Israeli war the Americans have explicitly held that we should withdraw to the 1967 borders with slight border adjustments. The U.S. gives us our

daily bread, we are dependent on it. The Americans are now the decisive force on every issue — from the principles of the peace conference to the shape of the table, the number of delegates and the tags they will wear. I prefer to be pushed by the Americans towards peace, if our leaders do not know how to get there on their own. The U.S. is making a supreme effort to create the beginning of a peace process, because they have much bitter experience: every status quo in the Middle East ended with war. The determination of the U.S. has shown for 24 years over the withdrawal to the 1967 lines will almost certainly find its expression in the conference.

The third reason is that we have created precedents. The evacuation of Sinai, painful as it may have been, remains a shining light to the Arab states. I do not

believe that there is, or ever will be, any Arab leader who will not demand an Israeli withdrawal from all the territories, right down to the last inch, including the Golan. President Assad is not going to ask for any less than Sadat did. The key to a solution and to peace is in our hands. The compromise will be about the "minor adjustments" and, in the Golan Heights, about demilitarisation and the security arrangements essential to us.

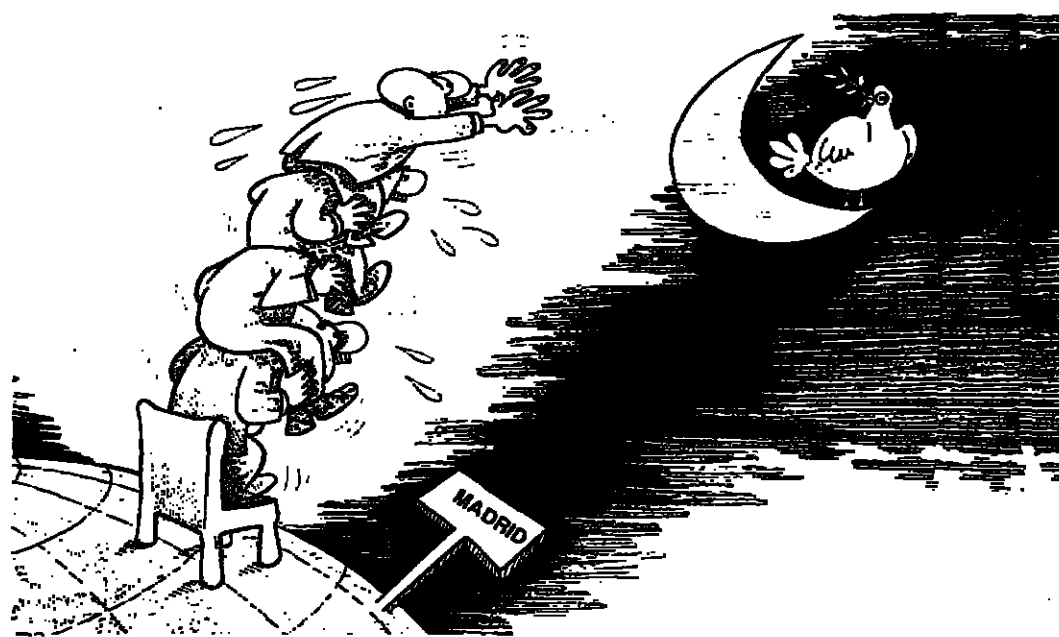
The fourth reason is that the state of Israel is, through Menachem Begin, the signatory to an official document which is said to solve the Palestinian problem in all its aspects. Even if what is agreed on turns out to be autonomy in the territories for a certain period, nobody here believes that Israel will return to rule or impose its sovereignty in these territories after years of

Arab self-administration. And from that point the road is short enough to a Jordanian-Palestinian confederation. This is the most convenient solution we can achieve.

The last reason is that the world wants it. The world has changed in recent years, and nothing is like it used to be. The world wants peace and quiet; it does not want any threats to its life. The U.S. today maintains friendly relations with the European Community, and all of them together strive to create peace between enemies. The world does not want waves of hatred and wars. I am optimistic. There will be peace.

The above article appeared in the Israeli newspaper Yediot Aharonot on Oct. 25 and is reprinted from the London-based Middle East International.

There will be peace



M.KAHIL

THE WEEK IN PRINT

New tax — heavy blow on economy, the needy

Jordanian newspapers in the past week gave prominence to government measures to end subsidies on food commodities, the consumer tax imposed on local products, the peace process and Israel's stand and a number of local issues.

The consumer tax imposed on local industrial products was necessary in view of the big deficit in the 1992 fiscal budget and the government's needs to raise at least JD 80 million in new revenues, said economist Fahd Al Fanek in *Al Ra'i* Arabic daily.

Jordan has decided to accept advice from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and embark on an economic restructuring programme which entails savings so that the country can pay back its debts, said the economist. He said that the creditors can by no means allow the delay in repayment to last for ever.

But his view was countered by most of the columnists, with Mohammad Daoudieh describing the tax as the most severe blow to the national industry.

The columnist, who writes for *Sawt Al Shaab*, said that the government should have consulted with the industrialists and should have taken the view of the legislative authority before embarking on such a measure which can only stunt the national industry.

Fakhri Kawa, a columnist in *Al Ra'i* daily, said that the government was bound to face enormous troubles as a result of its latest decision which the writer described as totally directed against the national interests.

The writer said that once the tax has been imposed, the prices of local products will be so high that consumers will not be able to buy; hence a loss to the local industry.

A columnist in *Sawt Al Shaab* daily said that the food industries have already laid off or forced large numbers of workers to take their annual leave pending the end of the dispute between the government and the local industries over the consumer tax.

Suleiman Al Barnawi said that the lay offs are bound to aggravate the already serious unemployment problem in the Kingdom and render the

national industries obsolete in the face of competition by foreign products.

The writer said that limited-income groups under the present circumstances can by no means buy cheap food or sweets for their children, which means further creating gaps in the society.

Referring to the government's decision to lower taxes on certain commodities but increase them on others, Salah Abdul Samad said that the government failed to reduce taxes on such commodities as olive oil and sardines, which are consumed by the limited-income groups, and had reduced the taxes on luxury products like nuts, which very few consume.

The columnist, who writes for *Al Ra'i* daily, said that the government should have consulted with the Jordanian society before embarking on such measures.

Another columnist said that the consumers are always the victims of the high prices and the limited-income groups are bound to suffer.

Ahmad Diban, who writes for *Sawt Al Shaab*, said that the government ought to find a formula by which to harness the merchants' greed and help the needy people.

Another columnist in *Sawt Al Shaab* said, by raising the prices and imposing the consumer tax, the government has gone back on its promises to the Lower House of Parliament that it would never contemplate such measures.

Ahmad Dabbas said that the government must reconsider its position and find ways to protect the limited-income groups.

Commenting on Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's statement that Israel would not abandon any inch of the occupied Arab lands at the peace negotiations, *Al Dustour* daily said that by this statement Israel is showing a flagrant defiance of the United States, which is sponsoring the peace process which entails withdrawal from the occupied territories.

The paper said that Mr. Shamir has issued his statement on

the eve of his visit to Washington where he hopes to use the Jewish lobby as a lever against the Bush administration and force it to retreat and allow Israel to maintain its occupation of Arab land.

Sawt Al Shaab said that only after Mr. Shamir's coming meeting with Mr. Bush we could know whether the peace process will continue or not. The paper said that if Mr. Shamir insists on Israel's position of not abandoning any part of the Arab lands, then the whole peace process would be in doubt. The Arabs have chosen the path of peace with Israel, said the paper, but it stressed that the Arabs can by no means accept peace at any price.

Mohammad Kawash, a columnist who writes for *Al Dustour*, said that either Israel stops the settlement programme in the occupied Arab territories or it faces the prospect of ending the negotiations with the Arabs. The writer said that the Arabs and the Palestinians should place a pre-condition for continuing the talks, namely a freeze to all settlements.

Taher Al Udwan, who writes for *Al Dustour*, said the Arabs should respond to Israel's announcement that it would continue its occupation of Arab lands regardless of the peace negotiations, by demanding that the international legitimacy be implemented in full and that U.N. Security Council resolutions be carried out.

The writer said that the Arabs should take a very determined and concerted stand vis-a-vis Israel's adamant position and should demand that the Americans, who forced the Iraqis to leave Kuwait, must take a similar stand and force the Israelis to abandon the occupied Arab territories.

Bader Abdul Haq, a columnist for *Al Ra'i* daily, urged the Bush administration to resume its dialogue with the PLO. He said that such a move can benefit the peace process and speed up a settlement. With the opening of the Madrid parley, the U.S. has paved the way for dialogue with the PLO, a step which it must take as soon as possible, the writer demanded.

Munes Al Razzaz demanded that the United States impose sanctions and penalties on the parts which obstructs the implementation of U.N. resolutions goes back on agreements. The writer said that the U.N. and the United States can exercise pressure on the Jewish state to force it to comply with the world community's will by withholding financial assistance.

As the date for resuming the peace process draws near, the need increases for coordinating the Arab parties' stands, said *Al Dustour* daily. It said that the success achieved by the Arabs at the opening session should be pursued through a unified stand.

Columnist Mohammad Kharroub said in *Al Ra'i* that current Israeli escalation of aggression on Lebanon and on the Palestinians in the occupied Arab lands can be no means to help the peace process. The writer said that the raids on the Lebanese and Palestinian positions, coupled with Israeli leaders' statements that no land will be returned to the Arabs, can only mean that the Israelis are determined to abort the peace process.

Turning to domestic issues, Salamah Ekour, who writes for *Sawt Al Shaab*, accused the members of Parliament of forming blocs only for the sake of securing ministerial positions for themselves.

The writer said that the deputies opposing the government of Prime Minister Taher Masri are doing that out of personal interest and not because they are against the peace process for any other reason.

He said that the deputies should turn their attention to the situation in their own constituencies, a task they had been elected to do, rather than struggling to fill a ministerial post.

Usama Sha'shaa a guest columnist, said in an article in *Al Ra'i* daily that the blocs formed by the deputies in Parliament are intended solely to achieve their own personal interests. The deputies, he said, were elected to maintain control over the executive authority's action and not to seek ministerial posts.

Partners' patience wears thin as Britain stalls on EC union

By Andres Weiberg-Stok
Reuter

BRUSSELS — Britain's European Community partners are starting to lose patience with London's stubborn refusal to yield on crucial points in EC talks on monetary and political union.

After nearly a year of complex and often acrimonious negotiations, they fear that Prime Minister John Major may have dropped the shrill anti-EC rhetoric of his predecessor Margaret Thatcher, but not the substance behind it.

"It is clear now that Britain is the main or sole obstacle in the key fields on political union," said a diplomat from the Netherlands, current EC president and usually a British ally.

Add to this the problems on Economic and Monetary Union (EMU), stemming from Britain's refusal to commit itself to a single currency, and the picture that emerges is one of London as the odd man out for reasons its partners often cannot grasp.

"It is clear that the British approach to Europe is different from those of the other states," a Luxembourg negotiator said. "But often they are also the ones asking all the right questions."

British diplomats pride themselves on injecting a dose of realism in their partners' often ambitious but vague proposals to transform the EC from trading bloc into embryo federal state.

With only a month left before the key summit which is supposed to strike a deal, British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd rammed the point home on Monday by taking the hardest line in weeks in a ministerial session of the EC's Inter-Governmental Conference (IGC) on political union.

He flatly rejected any increases in the EC's meagre role in social policy and blocked what diplomats said was an emerging agreement to create a "Euro-visa" to let non-EC tourists travel freely around the bloc when internal borders fall after 1992.

On Tuesday, defending Britain's stance, he attacked the EC's Executive Commission for the second time in two days and said London had the unpleasant task of bringing its community

partners back to reality.

"It has sometimes been the awkward but necessary role of Britain to ask the practical questions... when others have been ready to sign first and ask after," he said in a speech in the Hague. "I doubt if Europe would be well served if nobody did that job."

Although some EC diplomats grudgingly admit that Britain's scepticism helps focus the debate, many negotiators are no longer brazenly optimistic about the prospects for overcoming the doubts when their leaders meet in the Dutch town of Maastricht on December 9 and 10.

For many, London's preaching about realism is merely a fig leaf hiding a deep-rooted repulsion about ceding any more sovereignty to a supra-national community.

"I think the British are panicking a little now. After all that talk from Major about bringing Britain back to the heart of the EC, they are beginning to fear that they don't have the grass-roots support at home for that," one negotiator said.

"When EC leaders launched the monetary and political union treaty talks at a summit in Rome in December, many predicted that Thatcher's exit from the European stage after 11 years would suddenly bring to the surface deep divisions among the other states which had been masked by her extreme positions."

Eleven months later, the other states have split as forecast but have then regrouped on most major questions, leaving Britain again in a minority of one.

The EMU negotiations remain hung up on how to design a treaty so as to let London stay out of a currency union for now without also giving other states — and crucially Germany — similar right to opt out.

On the political union front, Britain will not budge on giving the European parliament a real say in EC decisions, on allowing the community to steer social policy in member states or on merging their 12 immigration policies under the EC banner.

"It's fully clear now that the British are going to have to decide what they want," one diplomat said. "A number of (other states) are ready to help, but London must make concessions."

LETTERS

What do we pay tax for?

To the Editor:

The reasoning processes of the officials working at the Customs Department, Amman, leaves me in a state of total confusion. We are told that raw material for producing goods are exempt from import duty. Therefore the reasoning is that the rattan rods (known to Jordanians as bamboo) used for making furniture, are indeed exempt. So how these officials arrive at the conclusion that rolls of already woven rattan peel for sticking to furniture are not exempt (because they are already woven) is beyond my comprehension. Without these rolls we are unable to complete the design of the aforementioned furniture and yet we are ordered to pay 30 per cent duty, thus, in one stroke, increasing the price of the finished articles and hindering our competitiveness on the world markets.

I will add that the rolls in question cannot be used for anything other than furniture manufacturing.

We would be very grateful if "someone in the know," possibly the minister of finance or the minister of industry and trade could spare us three minutes of their precious time to explain the reasoning behind this ruling.

Sheila Haddad,
Amman.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.

War tears through remote Transcaucasian valley

By Jonathan Lyons
Reuters

SHAUMYAN, Soviet Union — Tucked away in the southern Caucasus mountains, a ring of tiny Armenian villages is locked in a deadly battle fuelled by ancient enmity with rival Turks.

Armenian irregulars routinely carry a final round in the pockets of their fatigues, preferring suicide to surrender. One wears a grenade on a cord around his neck.

"If the Azeris come, I will stand up and put nine grammes (of lead) in my head. I will die on this land," said Yura, whose father was killed when the family home was hit by a rocket.

Yura's native Shaumyan Valley, home to some 16,000 Armenians, is completely surrounded by special forces from Azerbaijan, a predominantly Sunni Muslim, Turkic republic which formally controls this remote farming outpost.

Azeris and Armenians had coexisted for seven decades in and around Shaumyan but the breakdown of central Kremlin control and the rise of independence movements in their home republics touched off increasingly

bitter clashes.

More than 80 people have been killed and scores injured in a war of attrition that has kept thousands of villagers on the front lines for three-and-a-half years and seen Azeri attempts to forcibly deport Armenian residents. Some 280 houses have been destroyed, swelling the region's refugee population.

But the pace of this forgotten war — one of the hidden conflicts that threatens to spill across the remnants of the Soviet Union — is picking up.

Soviet army and Interior Ministry forces, compromised in the failed August coup, have withdrawn, leaving the field to the well-armed Azeri regulars and the Shaumyan Self-Defence Forces backed by Armenian guerrillas, the "fedayeen."

No longer constrained by even a semblance of Kremlin control, both sides are gearing up for a fight to the finish.

"We are on the front line of the coming war," said Vova, a fedayeen fighter steeped in the messianic mission that drives among Armenians. "They must be stopped."

Roads and electricity have been cut by a crippling blockade. The telephone service, which

runs through Azerbaijani stations, is intermittent at best. Petrol, brought in by clandestine tankers, is set aside for defence and other essential services.

Most food is locally grown, but flour is brought in from Nagorno-Karabakh — another Armenian-Azeri flashpoint — by blockade runners in big Kamaz lorries. The trip can be deadly, however, with Azeri snipers posted at key points along the route.

Lumbering Mi-8 helicopters, gaudy in their orange-and-blue Aeroflot markings, provide the only secure link with the Armenian motherland. Unpredictable weather, anti-aircraft fire and fuel shortages limit what are essentially illicit flights into Azeri territory.

"Raisa Gorbachev spent three days cut off from the rest of the world (during the coup) and she was completely shattered, while the whole country was fighting to get her out," said Avak Velyan, commander of the northern front.

"We have spent four years in worse conditions and no one gives a damn."

Barrages of modified Nuns and Alazan rockets riddle the valley's frontline villages, crashing down unpredictably in an eerie green

glow. Sniper fire from well-supplied Azeri forces rakes the valley at night.

From three almost-deserted villages on the northern front — recaptured two months ago from Azeri forces — to a tiny string of hamlets across the valley, the determination to stick it out runs deep.

"I was born here. They can turn my feet up and I still won't leave," said Gagik Glechyan, a 23-year-old veteran of the Afghan War, in his bunker post outside the village of Gakhnut.

The fighting has ripped through Shaumyan's social fabric, rolling back decades of steady if unspectacular development.

"The events since 1988 have left their mark not only on the general population but especially on the children," said school Director Gamlet Yediyun. "For years we cannot leave our district. This is not a blockade, it is a siege."

Mr. Yediyun's Middle School Number 2 now takes students in shifts to accommodate refugees who have swollen the population in the relative safety of Shaumyan, the regional centre. There are no notebooks and not enough textbooks.

Local teachers and hospital

officials report an increase in nervous disorders, particularly among the valley's youngsters. "It is unlikely there will be normal children from among this generation," said one official.

The fighting and blockade have reduced this rich agricultural region to a subsistence economy, wiping out the gains Soviet power brought to much of the countryside.

Powerlines, running from the Azerbaijani centres of Gyandjar (formerly Kirovobad) and Naftalan, were cut on April 13. Multi-ethnic education is now a bitter joke.

The integrated economy that saw Shaumyan's rich grape harvest provide wine for Russian drinkers and its giant gypsum quarry, administered from distant St Petersburg, face buildings across Azerbaijan, has collapsed. With no money coming in,

wages have not been paid in months and Soviet roubles circulating through the local economy are badly worn. Few residents had seen the new 50-and 100-rouble notes issued last March.

"What kind of economy can there be which the only things working are the hospital, the pension office and the post office?" said one physician.

The valley's health care system is barely hanging on, with just five permanent doctors where 57 once worked. Volunteer physicians fly in from the Armenian capital Yerevan for 15-day shifts to help close the gap.

Medicine and supplies, especially oxygen tanks, are in dangerously short supply and carefully rationed, said chief physician Vyacheslav Osipov. "We have made special war-time arrangements, because this is a war."



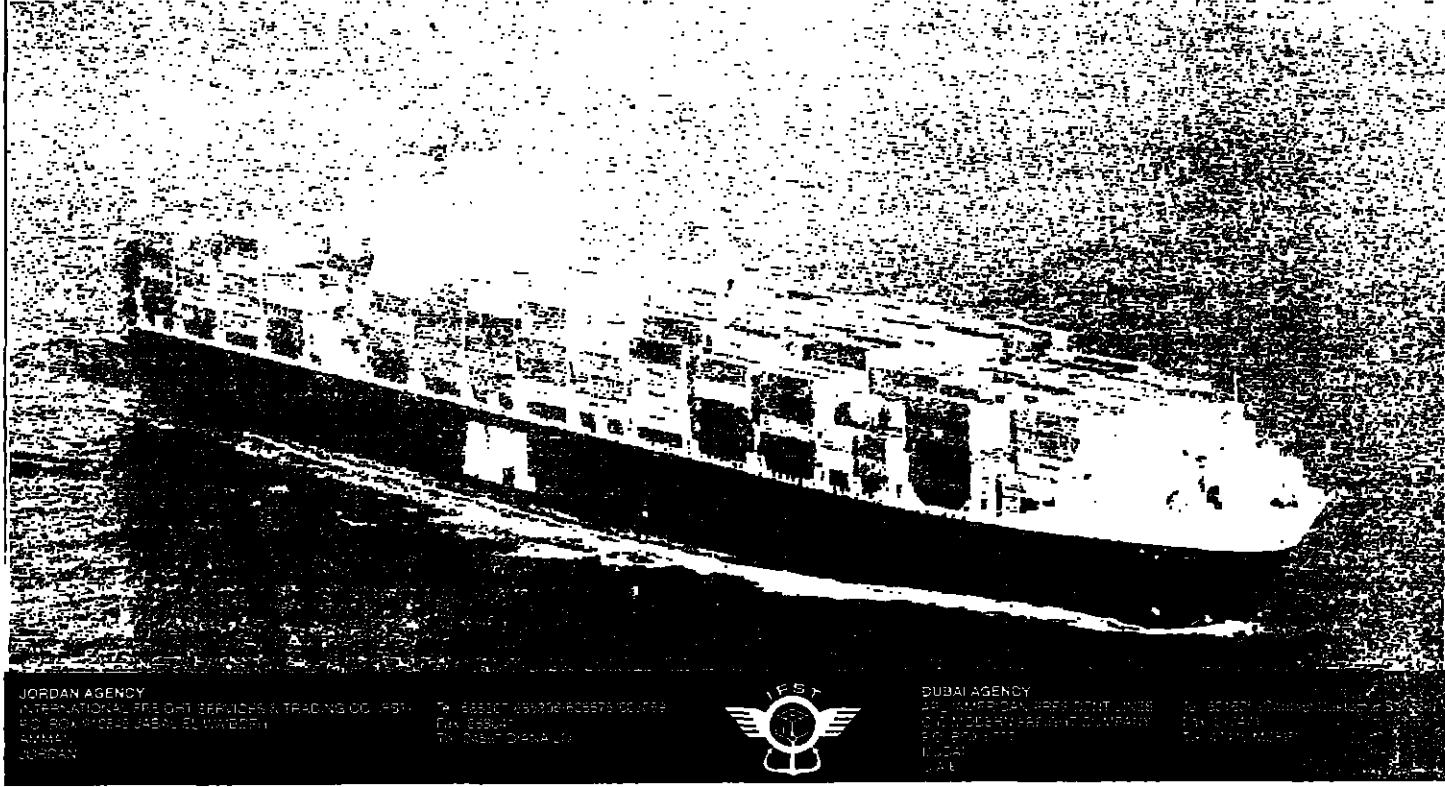
AMERICAN PRESIDENT LINES

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JORDAN AGENCY: 6631000, 6631001, 6631002, 6631003, 6631004, 6631005, 6631006, 6631007, 6631008, 6631009, 6631010, 6631011, 6631012, 6631013, 6631014, 6631015, 6631016, 6631017, 6631018, 6631019, 6631020, 6631021, 6631022, 6631023, 6631024, 6631025, 6631026, 6631027, 6631028, 6631029, 6631030, 6631031, 6631032, 6631033, 6631034, 6631035, 6631036, 6631037, 6631038, 6631039, 6631040, 6631041, 6631042, 6631043, 6631044, 6631045, 6631046, 6631047, 6631048, 6631049, 6631050, 6631051, 6631052, 6631053, 6631054, 6631055, 6631056, 6631057, 6631058, 6631059, 6631060, 6631061, 6631062, 6631063, 6631064, 6631065, 6631066, 6631067, 6631068, 6631069, 6631070, 6631071, 6631072, 6631073, 6631074, 6631075, 6631076, 6631077, 6631078, 6631079, 6631080, 6631081, 6631082, 6631083, 6631084, 6631085, 6631086, 6631087, 6631088, 6631089, 6631090, 6631091, 6631092, 6631093, 6631094, 6631095, 6631096, 6631097, 6631098, 6631099, 6631100, 6631101, 6631102, 6631103, 6631104, 6631105, 6631106, 6631107, 6631108, 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SPORTS NEWS IN BRIEF

Ferrari gets new chairman

MARANELLO, Italy (AP) — Luca Di Montezemolo, a former technical director of the Ferrari F-1 racing team, was named Friday to replace Piero Fiaschi as chairman and managing director of the ailing Italian auto racing company. Montezemolo's appointment appeared to be part of a major reshuffle intended to restore the prestige and competitiveness of the Ferrari F-1 team which was winless in the 1991 World Championship. Ferrari recently fired its top driver, three-time world champion Alain Prost, and is expected to announce soon the new drivers for the 1992 championship. Ferrari is controlled by Italy's giant auto maker Fiat of Turin.

Newell to join Dalglish at Blackburn

BLACKBURN, England (R) — Blackburn manager Kenny Dalglish persuaded Everton striker Mike Newell to join his second division promotion hopefuls Thursday in a £1.1 million (\$1.95 million) deal. The England B international's transfer is subject to a medical Friday. Former Liverpool boss Dalglish said: "I have said from the start that if quality players become available I will not hesitate to go after them."

Irish win without smiles

ISTANBUL (R) — John Byrne scored twice as Ireland completed their unbeaten European Championship qualifying campaign with a 3-1 win over Turkey Wednesday. But there were no celebrations despite the victory. The Irish fans chanted "what's the score in Poland?" and did not know that rivals England had scored the draw which put them into the finals as Group 7 winners. Tony Cascarino was also on target for the Irish in the 55th minute, just three minutes before Byrne's second strike. Byrne had opened the scoring in the seventh minute. Rıza Çalmbay equalised five minutes later from the penalty spot after Orhan Çikrikci had plunged spectacularly over goalkeeper Pat Bonner's outstretched arm.

England reaches European finals

POZNAN, Poland (R) — Gary Lineker sent England into the European Championship finals with an equaliser 13 minutes from time to earn a 1-1 draw against Poland in their tense qualifying game Wednesday. The finely-honed goalscorer instincts of England's leading scorer saved the World Cup semifinalists from elimination after Poland had taken the lead in the 32nd minute. Tottenham team mate Gary Mabbutt, whose cruel deflection led to Poland's goal, headed a corner into the box and Lineker turned sharply to rifle the ball into the roof of the net. For 45 minutes England had looked as if they were to be denied a trip to Sweden as Group 7 winners. Time and again their shots went tantalisingly wide of the goal. But Lineker's 46th and one of his most valuable international goals, repeated England's success of two years ago when a draw in Poland sent them into the World Cup finals.

Seles faces Haland in New York

NEW YORK (AP) — Top-seeded Monica Seles will open defence of her Virginia Slims Championships title next week against Julie Haland of France. Seles, ranked No. 1 in the world, captured the season-ending, \$3 million tournament last year by defeating Gabriela Sabatini in the first women's five-set match since 1901. Sabatini's opening round opponent in this eight-player event at Madison Square Garden will be Katerina Maleeva of Bulgaria. If the third-seeded Sabatini meets Seles again this year, it will be in the semifinals. The tournament's No. 2 seed, Steffi Graf, opens against Spain's Conchita Martinez. Her semifinals opponent, if the seedings hold, would be No. 4 Martina Navratilova, a four-time Virginia Slims Championships winner whose last title on the indoor court came in November 1986. Navratilova will begin the week-long tournament by facing Lori McNeil. Other first-round pairings send No. 5 Arantxa Sanchez Vicario of Spain against Zina Garrison. No. 6 Jennifer Capriati against Nathalie Tauziat of France. No. 7 Mary Joe Fernandez against Czechoslovakia's Helena Sukova, and No. 8 Jana Novotna of Czechoslovakia against Maleeva's older sister, Manuela Maleeva-Fragniere of Switzerland.

ATP Tour may return to S. Africa

FRANKFURT (R) — Top-class men's tennis could return to South Africa next year. The Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP) said Wednesday it had received requests from Cape Town and Johannesburg to stage single events there. "We have requests from Tennis South Africa, the new body in charge of tennis, to reinstate both events in 1992," ATP chief executive Mark Miles said. Johannesburg will host the ATP World doubles finals next week and is expected to keep the event next year.

Barcelona laments Magic's possible absence

BARCELONA (AP) — Although Magic Johnson says he still hopes to compete in the 1992 Olympic Games, Barcelona organisers are bracing for the loss of one of their most ardent supporters. "I think in the world of basketball, there is no player as important as Magic Johnson," said Josep Maria Alberich, the sport director for basketball with the Barcelona Olympic Organising Committee, or COOB. "It would be hard to find anybody more popular than him. Magic's image is so well-known here and we've all been counting the days until he would arrive." Joseph M. Abad, COOB's chief executive officer who keeps a basketball autographed by Johnson in his office, is still holding out hope. "If he decides to come, people will enthusiastically receive him," Abad said. "More, perhaps, than any hero in sports."

GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF
& TAMARA URSCH
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THE RULE OF ELEVEN

North-South vulnerable. South deals.

NORTH
♠ A Q J 10
♥ 7 4 2
♦ K 9 3
♣ K 6 4

WEST
♠ 7 6 2
♥ Q 10 5 3
♦ 8 2
♣ Q 10 8 7

EAST
♠ K 8 4
♥ J 9 6
♦ J 6 5
♣ A J 9 3

SOUTH
♠ 9 5 3
♥ A K 8
♦ A Q 10 7 4
♣ 5 2

The bidding:
South West North East
1 ♠ Pass 1 ♠ Pass
1 NT Pass 3 NT Pass
Pass Pass

Opening lead: Seven of ♠

It is important to have a structure for opening leads, and to abide by it. Most common is the lead of fourth best. By subtracting the fourth-best card from 11, the opening leader's partner can work out how many cards higher than the one led are in the remaining three hands. Once dummy becomes visible, the leader's partner can then determine the location of the high cards in the unopened hands by this formula. How important that can be is highlighted by this hand.

Sitting South was a recent Russian emigre, Votnai Tinkov, who

had soon impressed club members with his ability to make speedy, if misguided, decisions. Here, his lead of one no trump with a weak doubleton and a ruffing value was decidedly inferior—we would have preferred a raise to two spades despite the poor trumps, which would have resulted in North declaring three no trump. With South playing the hand, dummy's king of clubs was exposed to attack at the opening gun.

West made a winning decision in choosing a club for the opening salvo. Declarer played low from dummy and East had no problem. Applying the Rule of 11 left four cards higher than the seven in the other three hands, and that declarer could count three in hand and one in dummy. Unless the lead was top-of-nothing, declarer held no card higher than the seven. Therefore, East followed with the three, and a second round of the first trick.

West continued with the queen of clubs, and the defenders took four club tricks and the king of spades for a one-trick set.

Sabatini gets boost from easy win over Martinez

PHILADELPHIA (Agencies) — The last time Gabriela Sabatini played Conchita Martinez, she posted a 6-1, 6-0 victory on clay in the semifinals of the Italian Open.

Since clay is Martinez's best surface, it wasn't too surprising Sabatini had little trouble earning another triumph on the faster carpet surface at the Virginia Slims of Philadelphia tournament.

"That kind of win, especially that easily, helps very much mentally," Sabatini said after beating the sixth-seeded Martinez 6-3, 6-0 Thursday night. "I went with the same mentality. It's always good to beat a player like this."

Sabatini, seeded second in the tournament and ranked No. 3 in the world, needed only 66 minutes to reach the semifinals for the 11th time in 15 tournaments this year.

She will play the winner of the quarterfinal match between fourth-seeded Jennifer Capriati and No. 7 Manuela Maleeva-

Fragniere Saturday. Maleeva-Fragniere defeated Amy Frazier 6-3, 6-3 to move into the quarterfinals, while eighth-seeded Zina Garrison ousted Nicole Provis 6-4, 6-4 and will next play top-seeded Monica Seles, the world's No. 1 player.

In another second-round match, Brenda Schultz, who upset sixth-seeded Mary Joe Fernandez in the first round, overpowered Peanut Harper 6-3, 6-4 to earn a quarterfinal match against third-seeded Arantxa Sanchez Vicario.

Sabatini jumped to a 4-0 lead with two service breaks in the first set before she faltered slightly. She sandwiched a service break from Martinez around two dropped service games of her own, blowing one match point, but took the set when Martinez hit a forehand passing shot wide.

Coming to the net often in the second set, Sabatini was simply too much for Martinez, who committed 27 unforced errors.

Sabatini played a smart and

aggressive match, controlling the points throughout.

"I played an excellent match," said a satisfied Sabatini. "I served well and came to the net. That's why this match was not difficult."

Martinez saved a set point at 5-1, but merely prolonged the inevitable. The Spaniard put up almost no resistance after dropping the first set and Sabatini lost just nine points in the entire second set.

"I felt in the second set she didn't fight to do something better or to do something different," Sabatini said.

Garrison had to rally against Provis, falling behind 2-0 in the first set. But she went ahead 5-4 with a service break and used her serve-and-volley style to win the next game and take the set.

The second set went much the same way and Garrison said she was looking forward to meeting Seles, who has beaten her in three of four previous matches.

"The main thing is, I'm not afraid of Monica," Garrison said.



Gabriela Sabatini

"You like to play the top players, especially when you're trying to get yourself back up."

The match between Maleeva-Fragniere and Frazier was marked by 13 service breaks, eight of them by the winner. Frazier held a 2-0 lead in the second set, then saw Maleeva-Fragniere win five straight games.

Schultz, whose powerful serve was clocked as fast as 104 mph during the match, recorded 14 aces against Harper, who had only four break points and failed to convert any of them.

Sampras beats Agassi in Frankfurt

FRANKFURT (AP) — Pete Sampras beat Andre Agassi 6-3, 1-6, 6-3 Thursday, dealing his U.S. Davis Cup team partner a setback in his defence of the ATP Tour World Championship title.

Despite the loss, Agassi, who dropped to 1-1, could still clinch a place in the semifinals.

Sampras, 2-0, also will have to wait a day more to know if he is in the last four.

That was because Boris Becker's 7-6 (7-1), 6-3 victory over his German compatriot and Wimbledon champion Michael Stich opened the way for a three-way tie atop the group. Becker is now 1-1, while Stich dropped to 0-2 and was eliminated.

In final group matches Friday, Sampras plays Becker and Agassi meets Stich.

If three players end with 2-1 records, the tie is broken by

percentage of sets won.

The \$2.25 million year-end tournaments pits the top eight players in the world who are split into two groups and play under round-robin format. The top two from each group advance to the semifinals.

Becker, seeded third here, took revenge for his three-set loss to Stich at Wimbledon. He rolled through the first set tiebreak and took it when Stich hit a backhand into the net.

Stich, seeded fourth, had trouble with his serve in the second set, and was broken in the fifth game.

Serving to stay in the match, he committed a double-fault to give Becker a match point. A wild backhand by Stich that soared into the stands gave Becker the match in 86 minutes.

Stich said he was more disappointed by the crowd's overwhelming support for Becker than by the loss.

"If I was a Dane or a Swede I could understand it, but as a German I'm disappointed when 8,500 people are solidly only on his side, it's very frustrating," Stich said.

Becker acknowledged that the crowd support was a factor in his victory.

"It does feel good if they cheer for you, it helps my game," he said. "And Michael couldn't take the fact that the crowd was against him."

Becker said beating Stich didn't compensate for losing Wimbledon.

"For me, the big match is the final of a certain tournament in July next year," he said, referring to Wimbledon.

Maleeva advances to Indianapolis semifinals

INDIANAPOLIS, Indiana (R) — Katerina Maleeva of Bulgaria and Radka Zrubakova of Czechoslovakia, the only remaining seeded players, posted straight set victories Thursday to advance to the semifinals of the \$150,000 Jell-O Tennis Classic.

Top seed Maleeva outslugged American Susan Sloane-Lundy 6-3, 6-3 to move a step closer to her third title here. Maleeva won this event in 1988 and 1989.

Fourth seed Zrubakova also continued a successful week with a 6-4, 6-4 victory over American Linda Harvey-Wild.

Zrubakova, who has dropped just 12 games in three matches, struggled briefly in each set but outplayed an often impatient Harvey-Wild on crucial points.

In Friday's semifinals Maleeva faces Argentine Mercedes Paz, who served-and-volleyed her way past American Mary Lou Daniels 6-4, 6-3.

The only American player to survive Thursday's quarterfinal action was Andrea Keller, who eliminated Petra Thoren of Finland 6-2, 6-3 to earn a shot at Zrubakova.

The 32-player indoor tournament lost six of eight seeded players by the second round.

The 11th-ranked Maleeva scored the lone service break in a hard-hitting first set when Sloane-Lundy double-faulted twice in the seventh game and missed two forehands.

Sloane-Lundy, ranked 85th, jumped out to a 2-0 lead in the second set, but Maleeva rallied to 4-2 behind numerous cross-court backhand winners and eventually closed out the match with a ninth-game service break.

Pele rescues Marseille with equaliser

PARIS (R) — Ghana's Abedi Pele rescued French soccer league champions and leaders Marseille with a late equaliser against arch-rivals Monaco Thursday.

The team from the principality led 1-0 at Marseille until the 84th minute when Pele scored with a fine header to keep his side two points clear of second-placed Monaco.

Marseille dominated throughout against their main rivals for the past three seasons, the match being marked by a succession of

fouls and a tense midfield struggle for over an hour.

The league leaders, unexpectedly beaten by Sparta Prague in the European Cup last week, were joined in the 51st minute when, on a rare counter-attack led by Ivory Coast's Youssouf Fofana, Monaco seized the lead through a fine volley from Portugal's Rui Barros.

Marseille fought back, England's Chris Waddle having a header saved on the line in the 65th minute and marksman Jean-Pierre Papin hitting a post 10 minutes later.

Arsenal seeks a win against Oldham

LONDON (R) — Arsenal manager George Graham, whose team boasted the tightest defence in English soccer last season, is taking defeat with a rare sense of calm.

The articulate Scot, who usually manages to find something to

complain about even in victory, has seen his side lose four times in the first division this season. But he is not unduly worried.

"I'm not even going to talk about those defeats," Graham said before Saturday's game at newly-promoted Oldham.

Pele delighted the 30,000 home fans six minutes before the finish by nodding in a pass from Manuel Amoros.

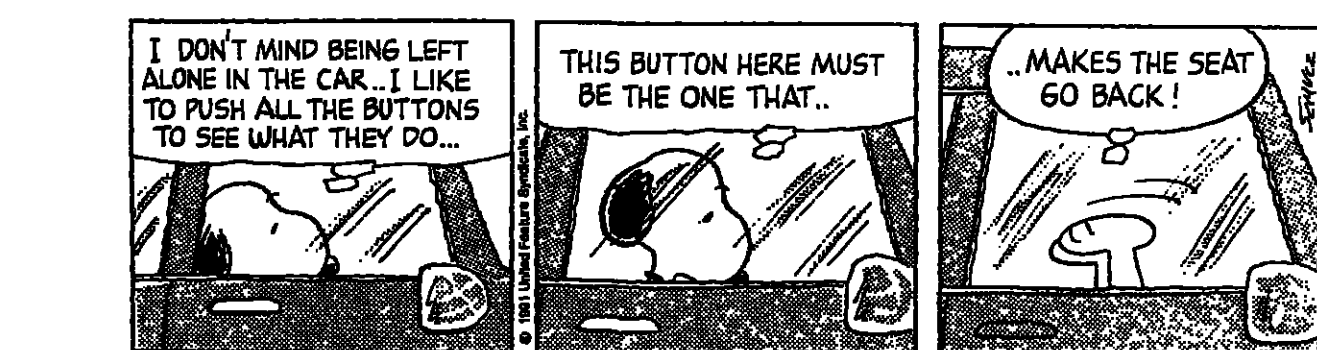
"It is a relief. We showed what a courageous team we were and, even though we lost a point, we managed to save the status-quo in the league only one week after our loss in Prague," Marseille's coach Raymond Goethals said.

"When a boxer has been knocked out, he does not fight again for six months. We have managed to be back within a week," he added.

"They're forgotten now. What I see is that we are fifth in the league without having found top form."

Last season Arsenal lost only once in the first division on the way to their second title in three years.

Peanuts



Andy Capp



Mutt'n'Jeff



HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY NOVEMBER 16, 1991

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: All the excellent aspects that occur this afternoon bring you gain through planning business expansion in almost any avenue that is of serious interest to you and the associates who rely on your input.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) You find you can repay any social debts or accept invitations that are extended in your direction so be sure to think on the lighter side of life.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Take some time out to think over your foundational ambitions and what you can do to make them work for you now without further delay.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) You are thinking big now and have more faith of purpose and interesting creative ideas through which you can be more successful in the future.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Whatever you lack financially you can now start an upswing and you can gain your practical objectives much more easily and with less opposition.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Let on paper right away those ideas that are roaming through your mind for your personal fulfillment and you find you can win out before long.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Make sure you do handle all matters with care that arise for you have many preparations to do on

them before you'd be wise to make them public.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Think out a better course under which you can make your social graces more apparent and your dream of being a delightful personal companion.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You have a very astute and sensible plan under which you can operate with others and get them to release some vocational activity for your progress.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) So many new situations that have all the earmarks of expanding your horizons and your knowledge that you need to keep busy every moment looking into them.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Let those with whom you have responsibilities see that you are generous and a far sighted person who does those things that encourage more association.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) This is that time to open up some new set of circumstances under which you can devise and make a new arrangement to extend your activities beyond present boundaries.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) You can make your surroundings so attractive and charming now that you would be wise to use every spare moment available to you changing present environment.

THE BETTER HALF.

By Harris



"When your silverware melts, that's a good sign that you're eating too fast."

JUMBLE.

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

TYTUP

VOACH

DAUSIN

THOOS

Onigosh-horse thieves, cattle rustlers—what else?



THEY PAID A LOT TO LOOK UP THEIR FAMILY TREE, AND THEN PAID MORE TO HAVE IT---

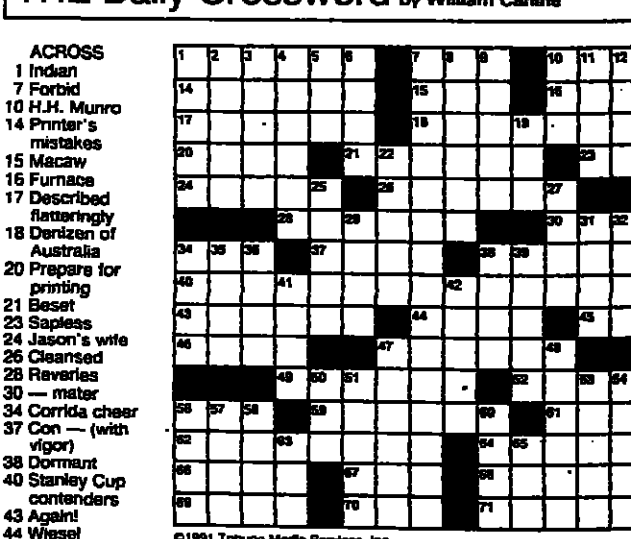
Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Print answer here:

(Answers tomorrow)

Saturday's Jumbles: MOOSE CHALK PELVIS RANCID
Answer: When someone eats crow he also swallows this—HIS PRIDE

THE Daily Crossword by William Canine



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Yesterday's Puzzle Solved:

1 Across: 1. Jumper, 2. Wear away, 3. Celtic priest, 4. Tangled in a mass, 5. Nothing in Cuba, 6. Baseball player, 7. Indo-Europeans, 8. Cops, 9. Cry out, 10. Edgar, 11. Deborah or Jean, 12. The — 500, 13. Out (make do), 14. Peculiarity, 15. Pergola, 16. Surrealist, 17. Lake port, 18. Curved glass, 19. Large pref., 20. Lilies — 34, 21. Monocles, 22. Jay, 23. Inscribe, 24. Mine entrance, 25. 4-0 in the series, e.g., 26. Mansard, 27. Actress Barkin, 28. Dorned roof, 29. Dany, 30. Actress, 31. Hagen, 32. Baseball player, 33. Gantry, 34. Br. coins, 35. Mutual defense org., 36. Strikebreaker, 37. Notable possum, 38. Put one past, 39. Chatters, 40. Author, 41. Landed

Latin American inflation rate slows

WASHINGTON (AP) — The rise in prices paid by consumers slowed sharply last spring in Latin America but prices are still increasing much faster than in the industrial countries, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) has reported.

The IMF showed Latin American prices rising at a peak rate of 561.1 per cent a year in the summer of 1990 and only at 126.4 per cent in June of this year.

"The stabilisation policies applied over the last year have managed in most cases to reduce inflationary pressures," said the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America in a report dated October.

Brazil had the huge annual inflation rate of 3,827.1 per cent in the summer of 1990, meaning that the average purchase by a Brazilian consumer cost more

than 38 times as much as it did the summer before. The fund measures price rises against the same price of the previous year, which gives somewhat different results from a comparison between successive months or quarters.

By last spring Brazil's annual rate had dropped to 373.8 per cent. But it has been rising again since then, to a yearly rate of 388.4 per cent in September.

Brazil accounts for a third of Latin America's total production. In Argentina the 1989 rate of 3,079.8 per cent also declined, but only to 1,629.1 per cent last fall — the latest figure available.

Even Peru, the champion of the world in inflation with 9,411.7 per cent last summer, had reduced its rate to 5,601.4 per cent a year in the winter months at the start of 1991.

In Mexico, inflation has been hovering around 20 per cent a year since 1989, reaching an annual rate of 22 per cent last July.

Among the industrial countries increases have also slowed since last year's average of five per cent, to an annual 3.4 per cent in the United States in September. Germany and Japan, which do not report so quickly, had 4.1 and 3.3 per cent respectively in August.

The fund also reported a slowing of inflation in eastern Europe but its figures did not include the Soviet Union, Bulgaria or Albania and results from other countries in the area were mixed.

"The rate of consumer price increases declined most sharply in Poland to 70.4 per cent in the second quarter of 1991, compared with 1,075.8 per cent a year

before..." said the fund's "IMF Memorandum" for November. It also noted a slowing-down in Yugoslavia last spring, to an 82.3 per cent annual rate compared with 1,776.9 per cent a year before.

Since then, political disruption and fighting have spurred the price rises to an annual 105.9 per cent in July.

Deutsche Bank, a leading German bank, predicted that increases of 50 per cent a month — 600 per cent a year — were possible by the beginning of 1992 because of war-time budgets in Croatia and Serbia.

In Czechoslovakia there was a rapid rise early this year, with some slowing down since. In Hungary and Romania the latest available figures showed a gradual speeding up of the rates.

M.E. peace seen brightening horizon for Jordan economy

By P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan is pinning high hopes on the Middle East peace process not only to restore stability to the volatile region, but also to produce direct and indirect channels to improve its economy through enhanced regional cooperation and fairer sharing of regional resources.

Jordanian expectations include, apart from increased external financial and technical assistance, a better atmosphere conducive to allowing Jordanians as well as foreign investors to draw up long-term strategies and to ensuring that the capital flight is reversed.

"Political stability is the first name for economic stability," said a senior official. "If political stability is ensured in the region then economic stability follows. The skills of our people will show when they can see further than a few years and be assured that the region is not going to be the scene for another war," added the official.

One of the key elements in the Jordanian argument is that Jordanians as well as foreign investors have so far taken very little advantage of the quota-free status that Jordan enjoys with the European and North American markets.

Economic analysts are unanimous that one of the major hurdles that Jordanian economic policy-makers always used to confront was the air of uncertainty and tension related to the Arab-Israeli conflict which dissuaded many Jordanians and foreigners from investing in the Kingdom and making optimum advantage of the country's geographic location and abundance of local expertise.

Jordan's economic woes have catapulted with the return of a quarter million expatriates from Kuwait and other Gulf states, not only depriving it of expatriate remittances but also compounding the unemployment problem

and straining the Kingdom's infrastructure services.

It is estimated that Jordan needs a minimum of \$3 billion to absorb the returnees and address, to a reasonable extent, the problem of unemployment.

"Jordan has a good track record of adopting to new situations and recovering relatively quickly to address medium-term problems," noted another senior official, referring to the situation in July 1990 when the Kingdom's economy appeared to be set on an eventual recovery after the turbulent 1989 and 1990 when the Kingdom's massive foreign debts bore their ugly effects and took their toll on the Jordanian dinar.

The Gulf crisis, sparked by the August 1990 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait, scrambled Jordan's carefully charted economic restructuring programme in agreement with the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank.

The Kingdom's refusal to endorse the military option to end the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait and the high wave of popular sentiments among Jordanians in support of Iraq deprived it of financial assistance from the Gulf states — expected to have been close to \$600 million in 1990.

The international trade sanctions and embargo on Iraq led to massive visible and invisible losses — exports to Iraq and Kuwait, transit revenue on Iraq-bound cargo, expatriate remittances and tourism — estimated at \$5 billion.

Jordan managed itself to remain on its feet despite the severe blow, but again it was a question of starting from scratch in its course to address the fundamental problems in its economy with the added burden.

While trying to reduce the fiscal budget deficit through increasing revenues and cutting government expenditure and reschedule foreign debts, the Kingdom also has to leave a lot to unknowns in its new course, but officials are highly optimistic that:

— The changes in the regional

political scene as a result of the peace process will bring about the resumption of Arab economic assistance to the Kingdom.

However, "it is nowhere round the corner," cautioned an official. "Political relations with the Gulf Arab countries are indeed looking up, but it cannot be said with any certainty that Jordan will get aid from the Gulf at any predetermined time."

European countries and Japan have indicated their willingness to contribute materially to ensure that Middle East peace agreements — as and when reached — are preserved and maintained. This entails additional assistance as well as investments.

A partial write-off of its foreign debts will ease the Kingdom's recurrent burden on the external front and the rising balance of payment deficit, expected to hit \$1.5 billion by 1993, according to independent studies.

Diplomatic sources argue that such across-the-board debt write-offs may not be possible, but that has not dampened Jordanian hopes that sooner or later a mechanism could be found to facilitate the process.

The investment climate in Jordan could be improved to attract foreign capital to take optimum advantage of the trade privileges that Jordan enjoys with Europe and North America.

Economists concede that foreign exchange reserves and local deposits in foreign currency have gone up to record levels since 1985, but point out that these are one-time occurrences since these figures represent the funds brought in by returning expatriates.

Another key element in the Jordanian strategy is to increase exports, which has so far maintained a more or less stable level. But in the context of balance of trade imports will go up as the Kingdom meets the needs of the dramatic addition to the population resulting from the return of expatriates.

Attention is also being given to

tourism, one of the top five revenue earners for Jordan, which has picked up after a disastrous year in 1990. However, experts believe that it might take several years to dedicated campaign to raise it to a level to be of substantial boost to the economy unless the dividends of the peace process are visible soon.

The government is grappling with short-, medium- and long-term solutions to ensure water availability for domestic, industrial as well as irrigation. Estimates indicate that Jordan needs not less than \$500 million to streamline its drinking water supply network and feed the system from far-flung underground reservoirs. Experts describe the drinking water situation as "treading the red line."

Securing a fairer share of the region's water resources is another Jordanian objective in the Middle East peace process. Despite agreements dating back to 1952, "Jordan was never treated fairly by its neighbours in sharing the water resources," says a senior official. "It is time we put forth our case forcefully and demand that we be treated fairly."

As medium- and long-term economic strategies remain a priority, Jordan has also to absorb its economic realities into its daily life pending the actual fruits of the peace process. This entails hard decisions, which may prove unpopular among the Jordanians.

Work is under way on the 1992 fiscal budget. Officials say that the 1991 budget of JD 1.16 billion will reflect a 20 per cent deficit, and the 1992 deficit figure may be close to JD 550 million.

The IMF and World Bank have advised Jordan to take into consideration "external financial assistance" while preparing the budget. Effectively, the advice is seen to represent an international conviction that financial assistance is almost guaranteed; provided that the peace process remains on track.

Colombo to levy defence tax in January

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP) — War-torn Sri Lanka will resort to foreign and domestic borrowing to help bridge next year's budget deficit of \$1.63 billion, Prime Minister Dingiri Banda Wijetunga has said.

Mr. Wijetunga attributed the strain on the tea-growing island country's financial resources to its high defence expenditure, this

year's Gulf war and revenue losses because of tax reforms.

"Our defence expenditure has escalated substantially... it is now almost five per cent of the GDP (gross domestic product)," Mr. Wijetunga told parliament while presenting the 1992 budget.

Mr. Wijetunga announced a one per cent defence tax on imported and domestically manu-

factured non-exportable goods from next January. The revenue will be used for defence.

Defence spending in 1992 will be 15.3 billion rupees (\$373 million) — most of which will be utilised by troops fighting Tamil rebels in the north and east. Defence spending last year totalled 1.16 billion rupees (\$285 million).

Mr. Wijetunga said revenue in 1992 would touch 8.9 billion rupees (\$2,177 million), while expenditure, both recurrent and capital, would amount to 156 billion rupees (\$3,811 million).

That would leave a budget deficit of 66.95 billion rupees (\$1,633 million). Last year's budget deficit was 64.6 billion rupees (\$1,576 million).

Swedish government proposes selling equity in 35 firms

STOCKHOLM, Sweden (AP) — The new non-socialist government, moving to deregulate Sweden's economy, has proposed to sell state holdings in 35 companies.

Conservative Prime Minister Carl Bildt's four-party coalition asked parliament to approve the privatisation, starting next year, of companies with annual sales totaling 240 billion kronor (\$40 billion).

Assets to be sold include Vattenfall, a state agency that is Sweden's main power producer, and the state's one-third holding in Procordia A.B. Procordia is a large producer of consumer goods and pharmaceuticals whose shares are traded on the Swedish stock exchange.

"Private companies are always more effective than state companies. Moreover, the state as an owner tends to confuse its different roles," Industry Minister Per Westerberg told reporters.

"It is crucial to begin a privatisation of state-owned companies as soon as possible in order to revitalise the economy," Mr. Westerberg said in a statement.

Coalition members won elections in September on platforms to reduce public payrolls and promote small businesses.

The new government promised not to dissolve the state welfare net created during the past half-

century of socialist rule. But it plans to legalise private child day-care centres and has discussed private alternatives to state hospitals and old-age homes.

The value-added tax on food, restaurant meals, hotel services and domestic transport will drop to 18 per cent from 25 per cent on Jan. 1.

The government also intends to reduce taxes on luxuries and capital gains.

Social Democrats contend that the coalition's programme will increase differences between rich and poor.

State holdings are to be sold off at rate of about 10 billion kronor (\$1.6 billion) a year. The enterprises include forestry company A.B. Statens Skogsindustrier, steel producer Svenska Stal A.B. and Domanverket, the Swedish forest service.

Some assets would be offered to employees of the companies or other small investors, and some to large institutions or corporations.

Government spokesmen did not indicate how long the process would take. Some of the 35 companies involved are wholly state-owned. Private investors have a majority of shares in others.

Funds generated by the sell-off would be used to replenish state coffers and to finance investments in public facilities.

Financial Markets

In co-operation with
Cairo Amman Bank

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin
Date: 13/11/91

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6830	0.6850
Sterling Pound	1.2087	1.2147
Deutsche Mark	0.4164	0.4185
Swiss Franc	0.4699	0.4722
French Franc	0.1219	0.1225
Japanese Yen*	0.5250	0.5276
Dutch Guilder	0.3697	0.3715
Swedish Krona	0.1140	0.1146
Italian Lira*	0.0254	0.0257
Belgian Franc	0.02027	0.02037

* Per 100

Other Currencies

Currency	Bid	Offer
Bahraini Dinar	1.7820	1.7910
Lebanese Lira*	0.07735	0.07785
Saudi Riyal	0.1818	0.1824
Kuwaiti Dinar	-	-
Qatari Riyal	0.1850	0.1860
Egyptian Pound	0.2000	0.2150
Omani Riyal	1.7480	1.7570
UAE Dirham	0.1850	0.1860
Greek Drachma*	0.3672	0.3712
Cypriot Pound	1.4760	1.4930

* Per 100

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at mid-session on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Friday.

One Sterling	1.7720/30	U.S. dollar
One U.S. dollar	1.1305/10	Canadian dollar
	1.6310/20	Deutsche marks
	1.8360/70	Dutch guilders
	1.4480/90	Swiss francs
	33.59/63	Belgian francs
	5.5750/5800	French francs
	1231/1232	Italian lire
	129.80/90	Japanese yen
	5.9750/9800	Swedish crowns
	6.4020/70	Norwegian crowns
	6.3375/3425	Danish crowns
One ounce of gold	354.90/355.40	U.S. dollars

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Saturday Nov. 16 — Swan Lake Ballet

Sunday Nov. 17 — Nut Cracker Ballet

Monday Nov. 18 — Carmen Ballet

Tuesday Nov. 19 — Giselle Ballet

Wednesday Nov. 20 — Swan Lake Ballet

Friday Nov. 22 — Nut Cracker Ballet

Saturday Nov. 23 — Carmen Ballet

Tickets are available at:

— Al Hussein Sports City.

— Phoenix Cafeteria and Gallery, Gardens Street.

— Zahrat Al Madan Mill — Jubilee Circle.

— Abia and Antar Stores, Jabal Luweibdeh.

— Safeway International.

— Al Tawil Tours Agency, near Safeway.

— Geneva Coffee Shop.

— Music Box / Al Sweithyeh, the Eighth Circle.

— Al Shalal Restaurant, the Gardens Street.

— Rana Pizza, opposite Al Ra'i Newspaper.

— Rawan Wool, Gardens Street-Da'san Centre.

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Ceasefire talks continue as fighting spreads in Croatia

ZAGREB (Agencies) — European Community (EC) mediators met Friday with Croat and federal army generals to hammer out details of a ceasefire reportedly agreed to by warring Serbs and Croats. But fighting raged on in secessionist Croatia.

Street battles continued in the ravaged Danube River city of Vukovar, where Serb-dominated forces have fought to within metres of the city centre.

At least 10 dead and 30 wounded arrived daily at Vukovar's cellar hospital, where 44 children are stranded as water, medicines, bandages and anaesthetics run short, Croatian radio said.

Air raid alarms wailed over much of Croatia, and in the Adriatic port of Split, which had been peaceful for days.

Three crew members on board a ferry were killed when navy gunboats opened fire on Split Friday morning, Croatian radio said. Air raid sirens then sounded over Split and nearby islands, where a boat bearing 4,000 de-

sperte refugees from Dubrovnik was supposed to pass later Friday.

A second ferry and Split City Hall were hit, according to a journalist from the city's Slobodna Dalmacija daily reached by telephone.

The ferry Slavija, carrying EC monitors from besieged Dubrovnik and 4,000 desperate civilians headed to Split from the Montenegrin port of Zelenika, where federal forces searched and held it 12 hours, EC deputy spokesman ED Koestel said.

But he said the vessel would not stop in Split because of the fighting and would continue on to its home port of Rijeka in the northern Adriatic.

Gen. Antun Tus, chief of staff of the Croatian forces, and Gen. Andrija Raseta of the federal army met separately with EC officials at the Zagreb Hotel where EC monitors are based. Dirk Jan Van Houten, the head of the EC monitoring group was involved in the talks.

They were negotiating details of a truce agreed after the federal defence minister and the European Community's chief envoy on Yugoslavia met Thursday.

EC negotiator Lord Carrington said Thursday after meeting the leaders of Serbia and Croatia and Federal Defence Minister Gen. Veljko Kadijevic that all sides had agreed peacekeeping forces were needed to stop the relentless bloodshed.

But the EC had said none will be sent in until a ceasefire is achieved. It is seeking United Nations' help in creating a peacekeeping force.

Gen. Kadijevic agreed to an immediate truce on condition the Croats lift their blockade of federal army bases in Croatia, according to the Yugoslav News Agency (Tanjug).

Once Gen. Kadijevic's pledge was known, Croatian President Franjo Tudjman agreed to a ceasefire, Croatian Radio said.

The EC has brokered a dozen ceasefires — none of which held

— in its attempt to stop the violence that erupted after Croatia declared independence from Yugoslavia on June 25.

Vukovar, under siege for three months, has appeared on the brink of capture by Serb forces all week. Croat defenders are relying on mined streets, sniper fire and entrenched positions in a local cemetery to keep the Serbs at bay.

Its fall would give the military a firm hold on eastern Croatia, and would be a severe psychological blow to Croats who see the city as a potent emblem of their independence drive.

Osiijek, north of Vukovar, also came under heavy artillery and mortar attack from surrounding army and Serb-held villages, local defence officials said.

Meanwhile, a hydrofoil chartered by the U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) to evacuate children from Dubrovnik was fired on by a gunboat as it headed for the besieged Adriatic port Friday, Zagreb Radio said.



James Baker

Baker to discuss human rights with Chinese

PEKING (AP) — A tight-lipped U.S. Secretary of State James Baker arrived in China Friday under domestic pressure to win concessions from the Peking government on human rights, trade and arms proliferation.

Mr. Baker went directly from the airport following his arrival at 0615 GMT to a meeting at 0800 GMT with Foreign Minister Qian Qichen.

"I think this is a very important visit. I know you think so as well," Mr. Baker said, referring to Mr. Qian as he and his counterpart sat on opposite sides of a conference table.

The secretary of state said his trip to China would "afford us an opportunity to talk about some issues where we see things in the same perspective and some issues where we have some problems."

In contrast to customary procedure for Baker trips, neither he nor his top aides offered reporters any details of expectations for the three-day visit during the three-hour flight from South Korea to Peking.

It was Baker's first trip to China since the crushing of pro-democracy demonstrations in Tiananmen Square more than two years ago. Congressional Democrats are questioning why he's taking the trip now without apparent assurances of major concessions from the Chinese.

Early this month, House Democrats, led by Foreign Affairs Committee Chairman Dante Fascell of Florida, wrote to Mr. Baker saying the Chinese "hope to reap propaganda benefits from your visit."

They urged Mr. Baker to press the Chinese "in the strongest public terms" to comply with treaties curbing the spread of missiles and nuclear and biological weapons.

Among the outstanding issues straining relations between China and the United States are reports that China is selling nuclear equipment and technology to Iran, that it has sold missiles to several countries, and that its discriminatory trade practices have denied access to its markets to many American industries.

China currently has the second-highest trade surplus with the United States.

Last May, the Chinese admitted providing a heavy-water reactor to Algeria, and the New York Times reported in its Friday edition that the United States three years ago had intelligence information indicating that was happening.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

3 killed in Michigan post office

ROYAL OAK, Michigan (R) — A sacked letter carrier armed with a rifle walked into a post office in this Detroit suburb Thursday and killed three people and wounded seven before shooting himself in the head, eyewitnesses and police said. Eyewitnesses said the gunman, identified as Tom McIlvane, 31, chose his victims carefully as if he had a "hit list" and that he apparently was inspired by the killing of 23 people in Texas last month, the worst mass shooting in U.S. history. McIlvane, described as a "time bomb" waiting to go off, was fired last year. When he lost an arbitration hearing Wednesday he "just snapped," one fellow employee said. Another witness said McIlvane was taking Prozac, a powerful anti-depressant drug that has come under scrutiny by critics over whether it can cause violent behaviour. McIlvane was in a critical condition at a hospital, police said. They declined to identify the weapon he used, but eyewitnesses said it was a .22-calibre semi-automatic rifle.

Spain approves police powers bill

MADRID (R) — The Spanish Congress (lower house) has given final approval to a controversial "citizens' security" bill which gives police wide powers of arrest and entry into homes to fight crime, notably drug trafficking. The ruling Socialists backed the bill with support from Catalan and Basque parliamentary groups but the main opposition conservative and left-wing parties voted against on the grounds that some provisions were unconstitutional. The bill now goes to the senate for approval before becoming law. Its most contentious clauses permit police to detain anyone found without documents until their identity is checked and to enter private property without a warrant if they suspect it is being used to sell drugs.

Menem gets red-carpet welcome by Bush

WASHINGTON (R) — President Carlos Menem, who has led Argentina from hyperinflation to economic stability and from Third World politics to a pro-Western stance, received a red-carpet welcome in Washington Thursday. "Ties between our countries have never been stronger. And a great deal of credit goes to you and your administration," President George Bush told Mr. Menem at a ceremony making the start of a three-day state visit. After a 21-gun salute and troop review, Mr. Menem promised to push his free-market policies even further. "Our determination is today firmer than ever before. It is also irreversible," he said.

U.N. elects 34 to law commission

UNITED NATIONS (R) — The General Assembly has elected 34 legal experts to five-year terms to the International Law Commission, one of the world's most prestigious legal groups. The commission is an independent body that helps draft international conventions or treaties. The new members include Robert Rosenstock, chief legal counsel at the U.S. mission to the United Nations, and James Crawford of Australia. Europeans elected were Derek William Bowett of Britain, Gaetano Arangio-Ruiz of Italy, Gudmundur Eiriksson of Iceland, Václav Mikulka of Czechoslovakia, Alain Pellet of France, Christian Tomuschat of Germany, Vladlen Vereshetin of the Soviet Union, Mehmet Guney of Turkey, Alexander Yankov of Bulgaria. From Asia and the Middle East are: Hussein Al Baharna of Bahrain, Awn Al-Khasawneh of Jordan, John de Saram of Sri Lanka, Andreas Javodices of Cyprus, Mochtar Kusuma-Atmadja of Indonesia, Pannaraj Sreenivasa Rao of India, Jiuyong Shi of China and Chusei Yamada of Japan.

Director Tony Richardson dies of AIDS

LOS ANGELES (R) — Oscar-winning director Tony Richardson, who began his career as one of Britain's "angry young men" and was a major filmmaker for 30 years, has died of AIDS at age 63. Richardson died in a Los Angeles hospital with family members at his side, a spokesman for the director said. Richardson made a series of hit films including *Look Back in Anger*, *A Taste of Honey*, *The Loneliness of The Long Distance Runner*, *The Entertainer* and *Tom Jones*, which won three Oscars, including best director. Richardson, born in Shipley, Yorkshire, was at one time married to actress Vanessa Redgrave by whom he had two daughters, including actress Natasha Richardson. They were divorced in 1967. He had a third daughter by his long-time companion Grizelda Grimond. Richardson also directed about 30 plays from *London's Royal Court Theatre* to Broadway, including the original stage version of *Look Back in Anger*, one of the seminal works of the Angry Young Man movement among post-war British intellectuals.

Haiti orders French envoy to leave

PORT-AU-PRINCE (R) — The army-backed government Thursday ordered the French ambassador to leave Haiti within 48 hours or lose his diplomatic immunity because he described the army as "cowards." If Ambassador Jean-Raphael Dufour is still in the country after that time, the government "will no longer accord (him) any diplomatic status," said a Foreign Ministry statement broadcast on state-run radio. The announcement came a day after the departure of an Organisation of American States (OAS) mission demanding the reinstatement of deposed President Jean-Bertrand Aristide. Supporters of the army-backed government Mr. Dufour as the reformist president's staunchest diplomatic ally.

12 hurt in Romanian mine blast

BUCHAREST (R) — Twelve coalminers were injured in explosions at a pit in the Jiu Valley coalfield in western Romania, the Romanian Press Agency, Rompres, said. Two of the 12 were suffering from severe burns after two successive blasts shook the Uranian pit Wednesday night. An official inquiry was launched to determine the cause of the blasts. Romanian Prime Minister Theodor Stolojan Thursday met Miron Cosma, the leader of powerful Coalminers' Unions which claim 52,000 members in the Jiu Valley, Romania's richest coal basin.

Koreas fall to narrow differences

SEOUL (R) — North and South Korean officials met Friday to discuss a draft non-aggression accord but the meeting ended in a bitter argument, a South Korean Unification Ministry spokesman said. The two sides, meeting at the border town village of Panmunjom, agreed only to reconvene next week to continue work on the accord, which the premiers of the Koreas agreed last month to draft. "No progress was made during the meeting which ended amid bitter arguments," the spokesman said. "But both sides agreed to meet again on Nov. 20."

Tough officer heads Sri Lankan army

COLOMBO (AP) — A tough officer with a record of waging unrestrained warfare took command of Sri Lanka's army Friday, promising to step up the campaign against Tamil separatists. The appointment of Lt.-Gen. Cecil Waidyaratne, 54, as commander-in-chief comes as the armed forces are on the offensive against Tamil guerrillas in one of the deadliest ethnic wars under way in the world. In the last month, the army has bottled up the bulk of the Tamil guerrillas in their stronghold in the northern Jaffna peninsula. But Sri Lankan military analysts and Western diplomats said the 8-year insurgency is far from over, and the guerrillas could hold out indefinitely in Sri Lanka's jungles. Waidyaratne, a veteran of counterinsurgency campaigns, took over from Lt.-Gen. Hamilton Wanasinghe, who commanded the army for three years. An honour guard will salute the new commander Saturday.

COLUMN

Michael Jackson's new video sparks calls from viewers

NEW YORK (R) — Superstar Michael Jackson, almost as well-known for his bizarre behaviour as for his music, released his latest video and one television station that broadcast it was flooded with irate phone calls. The 11-minute music video, *Black Or White*, which was broadcast in 27 countries, included shots of Jackson gyrating and rubbing his pelvis, zipping and unzipping the fly of his black pants. Film director John Landis, who helped make the video, said it was seen by an estimated 500 million viewers. Jackson's first new video in two years, it was shown in the United States on the Fox television network and the MTV and VH-1 music channels. A Fox spokeswoman said the network's New York newsroom was flooded with hundreds of calls from outraged viewers. "People are complaining. They're saying they don't understand it and it was pretty gross," said spokeswoman Danielle Parker. The video, thought to cost nearly \$4 million, had the look of a full-fledged movie, including scenes with television actor George Wendt and child film star Macaulay Culkin. The song is a plea for racial harmony from the *Dangerous* album, set for release on Nov. 26 by the Sony Corporation which has signed Jackson to a record and film contract reportedly worth more than \$50 million.

British army uses rattles for gunfire

LONDON (R) — Trainee army officers at Britain's Sandhurst Military Academy are using football rattles to simulate the sound of gunfire because there is no money to buy blank ammunition, a member of parliament said Wednesday. Michael Mates, chairman of the House of Commons Defence Committee, said it was just one of the problems the army faced following spending cuts. Firing ranges have had to be shut because civilian staff cannot be paid, training has been severely curtailed and 22,000 men have not carried out exercises this year. Under new defence cuts introduced to reap a so-called peace dividend from the end of the cold war, the British army's strength is being cut by 25 per cent. "All we are getting is smaller and the commanders are deeply unhappy," said Mates, a member of the ruling Conservative Party. "Would it not have been wiser to have at least not got to the state where we are training the next generation of leaders at Sandhurst with football rattles rather than blank ammunition which is not available?"

Mouse 'hijacks' Egyptian airliner

CAIRO (R) — A mouse which boarded an Egyptian aircraft heading to London Thursday caused panic among passengers and delayed the flight for three hours, Egyptian newspapers said. The mouse ran along the aisles of the Airbus minutes before takeoff. Frightened passengers jumped out of their seats and ran to one end of the aircraft to escape it, the papers said in their early Friday editions. Airport workers and cleaners were called in to try to catch the mouse but when they failed, passengers were transferred to another aircraft. They took off to London three hours later.

New Zealander falls in second bid to escape caning

KUALA LUMPUR (R) — A New Zealand man sentenced to life imprisonment and six strokes of the cane in Malaysia for drug trafficking lost a second appeal against the caning, the Malaysian News Agency Bernama said Friday. The governor of Penang Island said there were no new facts to be considered in the case of the jailed man, Aaron Shelton Cohen, the agency reported. It quoted Mr. Cohen's lawyer as saying he would now appeal to the King of Malaysia. Mr. Cohen, 23, and his mother Lorraine Cohen, 46, were found guilty of trafficking in 34.6 grammes and 140.8 grammes (1.22 and 4.97 ounces) of heroin respectively in Penang in 1987. Lorraine Cohen was given a death sentence, which was later commuted to life jail term. Malaysia's tough drug laws prescribe death for anyone with more than 15 grammes (half an ounce) of heroin and 200 grammes (seven ounces) of cannabis. About 90 people, including two Australians, a Briton and eight Hong Kong residents, have been hanged for drug offences.

Khmer Rouge leader delays return, Hun Sen urges calm

BANGKOK (R) — A Khmer Rouge leader who oversaw torture during Cambodia's "killing fields" dark age has delayed his return to Phnom Penh, sending officials ahead in an apparent attempt to test the mood in the city his guerrillas emptied at gunpoint 16 years ago.

In the Cambodian capital, Prime Minister Hun Sen said he feared violent protests would erupt against the Khmer Rouge when they come back as part of the peace pact signed last month.

Mr. Hun Sen said 90 per cent of Cambodians wanted to protest against the return of the guerrillas whose savage rule killed over a million people. He appealed for calm.

"If we don't protect the Khmer Rouge, then some violence will be committed. I am responsible for their safety," he said.

Asian diplomats in Bangkok said Hun Sen, the Khmer Rouge defence chief responsible for the

security apparatus during their 1975-1979 rule, would send a five-man advance guard to Phnom Penh Sunday but had postponed his own return by one day to Monday.

The guerrilla leader apparently wants to test the waters in Phnom Penh where citizens do not forget the brutality of the Khmer Rouge rule, the diplomats said.

More than one million Cambodians died from execution, disease, starvation or overwork after the Khmer Rouge emptied cities, moved everyone to work in camps in the countryside and tried to build a pure agrarian state.

Mr. Sen said he is to be joined later by Khieu Samphan, nominal leader of the Khmer Rouge and right-hand man to Pol Pot, the secretive revolutionary who led the group's reign of terror until being ousted by invading Vietnamese troops in 1979.

No date was known for Khieu Samphan's return, diplomats said.

East Timor governor attacks army over killings

DILI, Indonesia (R) — East Timor's governor condemned the Indonesian army for opening fire on crowds of mourners this week and accused it of arming "rightist terrorists" to crush an independence movement in the former Portuguese colony.

"I blame the armed forces," Mario Viegas Carrascalao told reporters Thursday night in his office in Dili, capital of East Timor which Indonesia annexed in 1976.

According to local reports as many as 180 people were killed when troops fired into a crowd of thousands of mourners at Dili's Santa Cruz Cemetery Tuesday. The official death toll stands at 19 with 91 wounded.

The Portuguese News Agency (LUSA) quoted Timorese sources as saying the army had dug mass graves in an open area outside Dili and taken four truckloads of bodies there.

Carrascalao said most of the 3,500 Timorese who had gathered at the cemetery were innocent people mourning Sebastiao Gomes, a student who was killed last month in clashes between pro- and anti-Indonesian activists.

"We are all in mourning because they are innocent people who died," he said. Actual demonstrators only numbered about 1,000, he added.

Troops should have controlled the crowd long before it reached the cemetery, said the governor who is an East Timorese appointed by Jakarta but with no control over the military.

He accused local military commander Brigadier-General Rudolf Warouw of failing to assess the threat and condemned his year-old strategy for putting down the insurgency against Indonesia's rule over East Timor's 750,000 people.

The governor attacked employment by the security forces of "rightists" whom he said often made use of their weapons and training to settle old scores.

"They are bandits and terrorists, the extreme right," Mr. Carrascalao said, speaking English with a thick Portuguese accent as he said many educated East Timorese, a legacy of three centuries of colonial rule.

"The weakness in the armed forces is in accepting these people. The military commander never accepted my plea not to use them," he said.

"The consequence of this is that I have lost a lot of my credibility. The military has also lost credibility... some or all." The military has admitted it was to blame for Tuesday's killings which provoked an international outcry.

Enrile pulls out of race for Philippine presidency

MANILA (R) — Accusing his rivals of political gangsterism, opposition Senator Juan Ponce Enrile announced Friday his withdrawal from next year's race for the Philippine presidency.

"I will not descend to the gutter where my rivals have dragged the fight for the presidency because they believe they enjoy a comparative advantage in that place," he told a meeting of the opposition Nationalista Party.

"The cheap gangsterism that has recently taken hold of our party had brought us all down to the gutter," he said in a widely-

applauded speech.

Political sources said Sen. Enrile could try instead to become president of the senate in next May's national elections.

Sen. Enrile resigned as secretary-general of the Nationalista Party but said he would remain as a member.

A former defence minister who launched the popular-backed military revolt which put President Corason Aquino in power in 1986, Sen. Enrile subsequently became an arch-Aquino critic. He led the battle for the removal of U.S. military bases.

Arch conservative challenges Bush

WASHINGTON (R) — Television talk show host Patrick Buchanan, an arch conservative with isolationist views, has all but thrown his hat in the ring in the first right-wing challenge to President George Bush for the 1992 Republican presidential nomination.

Mr. Buchanan said Thursday he was inclined to enter the Feb. 18 New Hampshire primary, the first statewide balloting on presidential preferences, but would delay a final decision until late this month.

"I am leaning toward it. We're looking at it. We're getting an awful lot of support and if the decision were held today it would probably be a 'go' decision," he said.

Mr. Buchanan, 53, made his remarks in a taped interview aired on "Crossfire," a Cable News Network public affairs show he normally co-hosts as a right-wing advocate. He was on a speaking tour in California and did not host the show Thursday night.

Mr. Buchanan, an outspoken foe of big government, is well equipped to exploit Mr. Bush's headaches with the sour economy in recession-plagued New Hampshire.

In his syndicated column Friday, conservative pundits Rowland Evans and Robert Novak quoted Republican sources as saying Mr. Buchanan could conceivably beat Mr. Bush there in what had seemed likely to be an unopposed walk.

Mr. Buchanan is also being urged to enter the race by the influential Manchester Union Leader's publisher, Naeckey Leach.

Political analysts said a Buchanan candidacy could force Mr. Bush to the right, creating more of an opening for the six declared Democratic Party candidates or for New York Governor Mario Cuomo, who said Thursday he had still not made up his mind whether to run.

Mr. Cuomo, considered by many Democrats as his party's best hope to recapture the White House in the November election, has sounded more and more like a candidate in recent days.

In an column in the New York Times Thursday, he faulted Mr. Bush for postponing a scheduled trip that was to have taken him to Japan later this month.

Mr. Cuomo said Mr. Bush should have used the visit to help plug the huge U.S.-Japan trade gap.

"Perhaps it is no coincidence that when the trip suddenly

IRA drawn into sectarian feud with Protestants

DUBLIN (R) — The IRA, which portrays itself as a liberation army fighting Britain, has been sucked into a bloody sectarian war with Protestant extremists who are better organised and armed than ever before.

Seven people have died in the past 24 hours in a "tit-for-tat" civil war in Northern Ireland that has prompted Britain to send in more troops and police in a desperate attempt to halt the bloodletting.

Protestant extremists have now killed 33 Roman Catholics this year compared with 11 last year. Their targets are not just random sectarian killings of factory workers and taxi drivers. They have also shot dead senior Republican activists.

A spokesman for the outlawed Protestant Ulster Freedom Fighters said: "We have got to get off our knees and say to Republicans we are not going to lie down and let you walk over us."

Now organised in much tighter cells modelled on the Irish Republican Army's command structure, Protestant extremists are proving harder for police to infiltrate. Extra squads of detectives have been drafted into Belfast to try and track them down.

In the past, Protestant gunmen were reluctant to target senior figures in the IRA and its political wing, Sinn Fein, for fear of

bloody retaliation. "They were as much concerned with self-image and an easy life as ideology," one police source told the Irish Times.

The IRA has tried several times this year to target senior Protestant extremist leaders, breaking into their houses with guns and sledgehammers. Their intended targets were either not home or escaped.

Then on Wednesday night the IRA killed four Protestants in the bloodiest night of violence this year in Northern Ireland. It claimed they were all extremist activists.

Protestants swiftly retaliated, wounding two Catholics in Belfast and killing three workers coming out of a factory.

The IRA portrays itself as a guerrilla liberation army fighting to free the province from British control and unite it with the Irish Republic.

Its favoured victims are police and soldiers but it has widened its list of "legitimate targets" to include anyone who supplies British security forces, from milkmen to building contractors who are viewed as collaborators.

It even uses civilian victims as "human bombs" strapped into explosive-laden vans which they are forced to drive to army checkpoints. Six soldiers and one civilian have died in such attacks.

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